

BEIJING TODAY

北京青年报

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

September 26, 2008 - October 2, 2008

NO. 382 CN11-0120

HTTP://BJTODAY.YNET.COM

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Zhai Zhigang (center) will become China's first "Taikonaut" to walk in space today. He is accompanied by Liu Guoming (left) and Jing Haipeng (right) on the mission.

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side by side?



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at China Open



"HAPPY HOUR" EVERYDAY! 2/4/1 - 4/2/8
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THE Village INN HOTEL & RESORT... NOW OPEN!

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'Blue cube' stations to stay

By Jin Zhu

The 550 volunteer service stations will remain in Beijing and continue to provide help and advice for the public during holiday, the China Communist Youth League (CCYL) Beijing Committee said.

The locales of the stations will be altered, with some moved to school campuses, communities and tourist attractions. "Anyone enthusiastic about public welfare can apply to work as a volunteer," Liu Jian, director of the Volunteer Department of BOCOG, said.

In a local volunteer service station by Grand View Park in Xuanwu District, the volunteers have never stopped working. Teng Luning, a Beijing local, led

the whole station to make red leaf-shaped invitation cards and handed them out to people on the street.

"Red leaves represent autumn, which is associated with harvest. Since we have gained happiness and experience from our volunteer work during the Beijing Olympics and Paralympics, we designed the invitation card shaped like a red leaf," Teng said.

The face of the card says, "Volunteers' smiling is the best name card for Beijing." The reverse says, "Welcome to participate in volunteer service." The message is written in Chinese, English and Japanese.

Teng said their aim was to recruit more people to join vol-



Teng Luning (right) and her volunteer team making red-leaf-shaped invitation cards.
Photo provided by Qianlong

unteer teams. "Volunteer work is not an activity, but a lifestyle," she said.

The "blue cube," a symbol of

the city's volunteer force, is a legacy of the Beijing Olympics. The CCYL said the Capital Museum, Beijing Zoo, the Planetarium and the Xinhua Department Store had already offered to contract the stations and send their own volunteer teams.

The remaining cubes will be assigned to a group handpicked from millions of applicants.

"After a series of training sessions for the Beijing Olympics, the volunteer teams are already well experienced. They should remain in use," Qi Zhiguo, director of CCYL Beijing Committee, said.

"If the teams remain active, then it will be easy to call on volunteers whenever a big event happens in the future," Qi said.

New rules ease restrictions on illegal adoption

By Han Manman

The government issued new policy guidelines Monday to ease restrictions on illegal adoptions and protect the rights of adopted children.

Currently, illegally adopted children are not guaranteed permanent residence in a city, schooling or inheritance.

The guidelines, issued by five ministries and made public Monday, allow people to register an illegally adopted child without fear of reprisal.

The number of illegal adoptions has increased rapidly in recent years, Ji Gang, director of the China Center of Adoption Affairs, said.

"In less developed areas, the number of unregistered adoptions can be two or three times the registered ones," he told Xinhua. "In big cities where people have a better knowledge of the law, there are fewer unregistered adoptions."

Ji said Shanghai had as many as more than 7,000 registered adoptions and about 4,000 unregistered ones between 1992 and 2000.

Ji said China has more than 20,000 registered adoptions every year.

To adopt a child legally, a person must be more than 30 years old, healthy, childless and with a good and steady income.

Those seeking registration under the new guidelines will be exempt from these requirements except in the case where a single male parent is not more than 40 years older than the girl he has adopted.

Such a man will be forced to surrender the child to a children's welfare institute if he is not qualified.

The guidelines also require anyone who finds abandoned babies to hand them over to police immediately. If the police fail to find their biological parents, the children will be given to a local children's welfare institution.

People who find babies, meet the necessary requirements and want to adopt them, will be given first priority.

"It means you cannot take an abandoned baby home and then apply for adoption. He or she must be handed over to the authorities first," Ji said.

Hike in parking fees a bid to trim traffic

By Venus Lee

September 21 brought an end to the even-odd plate regulations that slashed Beijing's traffic during the Olympic period.

But the end of the temporary regulations has caused an explosion in traffic jams and a return to dangerous rush hours.

Zhang Gong, the director of the Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform, told a meeting of the standing committee of the Beijing People's Congress that the city implement new measures to control the quantity of vehicles, though these will be different from the temporary measures which took effect July 20.

The government will raise the cost of parking in central urban areas to push citizens to choose other forms of transportation, he said. Construction of subway lines 7, 14 and 15 is expected to be complete within three years, achieving a network of 270 kilometers of rails.

The traffic flow has yet to peak. The National Day Golden Week holiday begins soon, and will attract some 7 million travelers to visit Beijing. Out of town vehicles are expected to aggravate traffic.

According to the Municipal Traffic Management Bureau, it will implement temporary traffic regulations at 20 points of high traffic or public interest. It continues to push for residents to take public transportation.

The bureau said, there are as many as 3.4 million vehicles in the city and 5 million drivers.



These photos taken September 19 (bottom) and September 22 (top), show how traffic has exploded since the end of the Olympics period.
IC Photo

More top female leaders needed, says ACWF

By Han Manman

The government does not have enough women in positions of political power, an official of the All-China Women's Federation said Wednesday.

"There needs to be more female leaders in senior positions," Huang Qingyi, vice president of the federation, said at a press conference before the 10th National Women's Congress, scheduled for October 28 to 31.

Huang said China has eight women decision makers at the national level, including Liu Yan-

dong, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and state councilor, Uyunqim, Chen Zhi and Yan Junqi, vice chairwomen of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC).

"The number of senior women leaders, their educational backgrounds and their political capacity are the highest in history," Huang said.

More than 40 percent of civil servants are women, she said.

But the percentage of women

decision makers remains low, she said. For example, at the 11th National People's Congress earlier this year, women accounted for just over 21 percent of the deputies, while at the 11th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, they accounted for just under 18 percent.

At the local level, women account for 48 percent of the members of urban resident committees, and about 23 percent of village committees, she said.

While improvements to the legal system – such as the implemen-

tation of the Constitution and the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women – have secured better equality, there remains a steep gender imbalance, Huang said.

According to a survey conducted in 2005, most working women have weaker educational backgrounds than their male counterparts, which limits their competitiveness.

Six out of 10 unemployed people are women, with new graduates and women aged 40-50 facing the biggest difficulties in the job market, it said.

44 die in club not up to code

By Huang Daochen

A nightclub fire in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, last Saturday killed 44 people and injured 88. So far, 14 people have been arrested for their involvement, local government said Tuesday.

Five officials in Shenzhen, including district, fire and police staff, will be punished, it said. Some district officials are expected to lose their jobs.

The fire broke out late last Saturday at The King of Dancers (Wuwang) nightclub in Shenzhen's

Longgang District, near the border with Hong Kong.

According to a preliminary investigation, the fire began when fireworks were detonated in the song and dance hall, Xinhua reported, citing initial investigation. More than 300 clubbers who watched the performance were trapped in a narrow passageway, unable to exit, the report said.

Authorities said that the nightclub operated illegally – without license – for about a year.

"There was something wrong

with the architectural design," Guangdong Province Governor Huang Huahua said after inspecting the club.

"If there was a better ventilation system, there wouldn't have been so many deaths," he said.

Deadly fires are not uncommon in karaoke bars due to ignorance of fire and safety measures.

The State Administration of Work Safety ordered a nationwide inspection Tuesday into business safety, with karaoke bars and night clubs their main targets.

Businesses would be closed if they were found to lack a fire-alarm and fire-fighting system, the government unit said.

The Beijing Fire Control Bureau also inspected the city's entertainment venues on Monday night.

As many as 100 inspection groups checked entertainment venues on Sanlitun Street, around Houhai and in the CBD's shopping malls. Officials with the fire bureau said that they will conduct investigations at all public entertainment venues before National Day.

Yunnan orphans cry 'rape' at chair of HK charity

By Annie Wei

Chen Dangfeng, a Hong Kong woman who raised 100,000 yuan for an orphanage in Menghai, Yunnan Province, visited the children she had helped this year.

She distributed paper and pens to six of the girls who were in junior high, and asked them to write about their families, their studies, their dreams and life in the orphanage.

She never expected their stories to be about rape at the hands of the orphanage chair.

Chen related the stories from the Ren'ai Home for Kids to the Menghai government on July 22, prompting a joint investigation by the police, civil affairs and education departments.

Hong Kong police arrested Francis Lee, 46, chairman of the Give and Take Association of Hong Kong, after they found suspicious transactions in his savings account, and when one of the Menghai orphans agreed to testify in court against Lee.

He reportedly coerced the girls to have sex with him by offering them money or valuables like mobile phones at the Ren'ai Homes for Kids. When that failed, he turned to rape.

His "inappropriate" behavior began as early as 2004, but no girl in the orphanage was willing to accuse him publicly, local authorities said.

Chen's own investigation turned up other oddities. Two of the older girls had a very intimate relationship with Lee, and always ate outside the orphanage. Some girls who spoke to Chen told her they did not want to live in the orphanage, and hoped someone on the outside could support them.

Some girls were pregnant, and many reported that Lee sneaked into their rooms to caress them at night.

One girl said Lee promised them spending money, or to build them a house if they slept with him. A local newspaper Chuncheng Evening reported one girl witnessed another girl bathing with Lee.

Three cameras were found in the orphanage. Girls said Lee used these to spy on them during private times.

Lee denied all charges when questioned by a Hong Kong newspaper. He admitted to having installed monitors in the orphanage to know what was going on when he was in Hong Kong. As for entering their rooms at night, he said he was just checking to make sure the girls had blankets.

He told Hong Kong reporters he would never return to the Chinese mainland to open another orphanage.

The local education bureau in Menghai said the orphanage is closed, but its 27 orphans would be cared for. The bureau has arranged for them to enter new schools. Chen promised her continued sponsorship of the girls.

Typhoon hits South China



South China has been hit by a typhoon that caused injuries to scores of people and forced the evacuation of 28,000. Typhoon Hagupit swept into Guangdong province earlier this week, uprooting trees, knocking down billboards and forcing the evacuation becoming a tropical storm.

CFP Photo

Family recovers \$10k from shady 'landlord'

By Annie Wei

A couple (refused giving out names), in-laws of an American volleyball athlete, have reclaimed a US \$10,000 deposit that was withheld by their "landlord" after an Olympics rental deal fell through.

In February, the couple were searching online for short-term rental housing near the National Stadium. On the Web site vrbo.com/142531, they found and contacted a man named "Rick," who said he had an apartment with three bedrooms, 24-hour hot water, air conditioning and Internet.

After exchanging several emails, the couple decided to rent it for 19 days at US \$12,000, including rent and the deposit. They transferred US \$10,000 to Rick's account as part of the agreement, police said.

The family arrived in Beijing on August 7 and wanted to move in the apartment as scheduled. However, the condition of the apartment was a disappointment. It was a two-bedroom apartment with its water heater and air conditioning both broken.

"There were used clothes and other personal articles scattered

everywhere. No one wants to stay in a place like that," Wang Beijing, their lawyer from S&P Law Firm, said. In the end, they decided to check into the Hilton Hotel and asked Rick to refund their deposit.

However, "Rick" said he would never return their money, and from then on refused to answer his phone, according to the police report. The couple hired a lawyer to communicate with Rick and planned to sue him if he refused to talk.

However, when lawyers talked to the couple on August 14, they

found the family knew nothing about "Rick" except his name and cell phone number. Police found he was not the owner of the apartments. Suing someone with so little information was very difficult, so the lawyers told the couple to report it to the police.

According to the Beijing Lawyers' Association, the police found Rick. He was forced to return the deposit on August 23.

Wang suggested that future tenants need to make sure the person who put the apartment up for rent has the right to do so.

Kaixin aims to be China's Facebook

By Zheng Lu

"Why did you give me a traffic ticket last night?" Li Xieguang's friend complained bitterly.

Li is not a traffic cop and the car is not real, but the conversation is happening every day in his office. Kaixin Web, a social networking Web site, has broken free of the Internet to invade water cooler gossip.

Henrique Wang, a Portuguese-Chinese translator, said 50 friends had signed up in three days. His friends and colleagues using Kaixin are mainly aged 20 to 35.

Small games may be the reason

why so many are so attached to the Website.

"Parking war" is almost the same as a game on Facebook, but for office workers, it is more than just game.

Li Xieguang said he would stay up late till 2 am to give his friends that were parking in his space more traffic tickets. It was a way to make online money off his friends. His friends woke up the next morning to find they did not "make money" by parking, but lost it.

Others consider it a way to improve social relationships with colleagues and friends.

"The little games gave us something to talk about," Henrique Wang said.

He said one of his more shy colleagues, with whom he had spoken 10 times in four years, was much more willing to socialize after breaking the ice online. Wang sent her online candy as a present.

The platform Kaixin.com offers whole company teams to participate in activities. People tend to be more courageous than they are in face-to-face communication.

Managers as well as employees have flocked to the site, prompting many companies to block access.

Kaixin's Web site has been denounced by many for its "viral recruitment" system that sends dozens of registration invitations every day to all MSN and email contacts of a Kaixin user. The ads continue until that user registers a Kaixin account.

A poll of whether people will continue to use Kaixin if it starts to charge for its services is a new hot topic. According to the poll, 70 percent of its users said they would not stay if it charges money.

"It is just a site to fool around on. I cannot justify spending money on it," Li Xieguang said.



Li Changjiang resigned Monday amid fury over tainted milk.

CFP Photo

Officials resign amid scandal

By Huang Daohen

The country's chief quality supervisor Li Changjiang stepped down Monday afternoon after tainted dairy products killed four infants and sickened 53,000.

Across the country, 13,000 babies remain hospitalized due to illness associated with melamine-tainted milk powder, and 40,000 others fell ill but recovered, the Ministry of Health said Sunday.

Official resignation

The dairy contamination scandal has set off a new round of official resignations this week. Li was the highest ranking official to fall from power.

Wu Xianguo, the Communist Party chief of Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province, was also sacked on Monday.

Before Wu, mayor Ji Chuntang and vice mayor Zhang Fawang, as well as three other city officials were sacked after Sanlu Group became the first dairy producer under the spotlight.

The latest personnel reshuffle sent a signal of the central government's resolution to hold relevant officials accountable for severe production and quality incidents, Professor Wang Wei of the National School of Administration said.

"Such a system is especially crucial to the building of a service-oriented government," he said.

Scandal under control

The national quality inspector said Wednesday that the tainted

milk scandal is under control. "It is not a problem anymore," Xiang Yuzhang, the watchdog's chief inspection official, told a Wednesday's press conference.

"There are no more problems in the market. As far as I know, there will be no more bad news," Xiang said.

The government revoked last week the inspection-free status that helped some producers avoid inspection and started to destroy tainted product.

A total 7,074 tons of products have been removed from retail outlets across China, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC) said Tuesday. These included 4,246.7 tons of milk powder and 1,562.1 tons of liquid milk products contaminated with melamine, SAIC records showed.

Premier Wen Jiabao pledged improvements in food safety control while he attended a high-level UN meeting for the Millennium Development Goals in New York. Wen said the government would treat the crisis as an opportunity to

overhaul safety controls.

"China will strengthen institutional development and take seriously the supervision and inspection of every link in the production chain, truly ensuring the interests of consumers," Wen said.

WHO confident

The World Health Organization (WHO) said Tuesday it is confident that the government provided timely information on the tainted milk problem.

"We don't really know the scale of the problem, but we are confident that the Chinese authorities are informing us in a timely manner," the WHO spokeswoman Fadela Chaib was quoted by Xinhua as saying.

A WHO expert denied Tuesday the need for an import ban on Chinese milk products.

It has not received any reports of infants in other countries affected by tainted milk produced in China, Danilo Lo-Fo-Wong, a senior scientist in WHO's food safety division, said.

New business rises in the wake of tainted milk fears

By Zheng Lu

While domestic powdered milk producers continue to struggle, the scandal has opened new service industry opportunities both at home and abroad.

In Shenzhen, many seized the opportunity to make a profit. In recent days the Luohu customs point has seen crowds of people carting cans of powdered milk back from Hong Kong. It was reported that most shoppers who bought bags and cans of milk powder in Hong Kong supermarkets were from Shenzhen.

Shrewd Hong Kong businessmen began to transport batches of milk to the mainland.

Many overseas Chinese are using the Tianya bbs system to take orders for milk, which is then shipped back by express delivery.

Besides buying imported powdered milk, some mothers have reconsidered breast feeding. The problem for many mothers is that they are at work when it is time to feed their children. Some express companies have begun operating a "breast milk delivery." The ser-

vice collects milk produced by the mothers at work and delivers it to their children at home.

Wet nurses have also experienced a resurgence in popularity. A domestic agency in Beijing is dispatching wet nurses as nannies. There are no laws regulating such services, but many parents pounced on the opportunity.

In the thriving market of foreign milk and human milk, the dairy industry is experiencing a downturn. White Rabbit candy, a brand that has been popular through sev-

eral generations, has been reported to be contaminated with melamine in Singapore.

Some people expressed fears about dairy foods and said they would avoid all dairy, including ice cream. "I won't buy anything in the bakery; I don't know what brand of milk they made their cakes with," a student at the Communication University of China said.

However, reporters found that while the fruits and pastries in the fridge were almost sold out, cheesecakes and other cakes remained

largely untouched.

Some foreign restaurants have also been influenced. Starbucks has replaced the cream in its coffee with soymilk. Customers used to the cream said they did not like the new coffee and would find another supplier, *Beijing Youth Daily* reported.

McDonald's offers cream produced by Sanyuan, one of the few dairies with no reports of melamine boosting. However, staff are still questioned about the cream's origin, the report said.

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Taikonauts brace for historic spacewalk

By Huang Daohen

Taikonaut is a new word coined by scientists in 1998 for Chinese astronauts and cosmonauts. Today, a decade later, a taikonaut will be expected to take the first-ever step of the Chinese nation into space when he floats out of the Shenzhou-7 spacecraft.



Three taikonauts ready for today's blast-off.



All systems go for the first spacewalk.

(AFP) – China's ambitious space program took a giant leap forward yesterday when three astronauts blasted off on a mission to undertake the country's first space walk.

The Long March rocket, taller than the Statue of Liberty, blasted off at the northwestern Jiuquan launch centre and sent the Shenzhou VII capsule into orbit for China's third manned space flight late Thursday.

According to government Web sites, Air Force Colonel Zhai Zhigang, 42, will make history as China's first man to walk in space when he steps out of the Shenzhou capsule around 4:30 pm today.

"The historic moment will be broadcast live across the world," xinhua.net quoted Cui Jijun as saying. The space environment is expected to be fine for the mission.

The 68-hour mission will bring China closer to its goal of building a small space laboratory and later a space station, a few more rungs up the ladder of national pride after the Beijing Olympics and ahead of

National Day on October 1.

"My impression is that everything is going well in the final days before the launch," said Morris Jones, an Australian space analyst and writer for SpaceDaily.com who has closely studied China's space efforts.

"I don't think there are any major problems. They have had a long time to get ready for this," he told AFP.

China became the third nation after the US and Russia to independently put a man in space when Yang Liwei, a fighter pilot, traveled aboard the Shenzhou V in October 2003.

In 2005, two taikonauts manned the five-day Shenzhou VI mission as the nation announced vague goals to eventually build a manned space station and put a man on the moon.

"The Chinese program overall can be described as ambitious, yet incremental and prudent," Joan Johnson-Freese, an expert on China's space effort at the US Naval War College, told AFP.

"The consistent increase in the number of astronauts flown is consistent with that approach, and consistent with the model used earlier by the Soviets and Americans."

Perfecting space walk technology will be crucial for China's plans eventually to build a space laboratory and space station, Johnson-Freese said.

Zhai will also test the reliability of China's first space suit as he moves around the craft and releases a small satellite to broadcast video images of his walk.

"This flight is part of the approved official Chinese manned space plan for proven manned space-flight capabilities," Johnson-Freese said.

"Shenzhou VII puts them one step closer to (building a) small space lab."

Accompanying Zhai in the spacecraft will be Liu Boming and Jing Haipeng, both 42 and air force fighter pilots. All three were selected in 1998 as part of a team of first-generation taikonauts.

China's manned space program

By Huang Daohen

China's manned space program will be carried out in three stages, ending in the establishment of a permanent space laboratory, according to China's aerospace development plan.

In the first stage of the program, China sent unmanned spacecraft and a manned spacecraft into near-earth orbit, conducting observations of the earth and scientific experi-

ments in space.

The planned launch of the Shenzhou VII spacecraft yesterday featuring China's first attempt at space walking will be just one step of the program's second stage.

In the second stage, the first step was a manned space flight carrying more than one person and lasting more than one day. China will put into orbit a space laboratory manned by humans for short periods.

In the third stage, China will build a permanent space laboratory and a space engineering system. Astronauts and scientists will travel between the earth and the space station to conduct scientific experiments of larger scale.

After that, Chinese astronauts and scientists will conduct experiments in space regularly, laying a solid foundation for the peaceful utilization of space and exploitation of space resources.

Spacecraft launch has no military goals

By Huang Daohen

Space experts have denied any military intent in the space program.

Cui Jijun, director of the Jiuquan satellite launch centre in northwestern Gansu Province, where the blastoff took

place, dismissed concerns that the space program would be used for military ambitions. Cui said that it was a scientific exploration.

"So far, China's manned space program hasn't carried out a single

military task," Cui was quoted as saying by Xinhua on Monday.

Cui did not reveal what experiments would be conducted in the coming mission but said that all experiments would be for civil purposes.



The Long March rocket at Jiuquan launch center.
Xinhua Photos

Yuan rise China's response to financial upheaval?

During the Asian financial crisis 10 years ago, with East Asian countries depreciating their currencies one after the other, China upheld its promise of a stable yuan exchange rate and made a great contribution to economic recovery.

As the crisis on the Wall Street spreads to other countries, and may trigger or contribute to global recession, China, an engine of the global economic growth, may again play the role of anchor.

The financial world is focused on whether policy makers can control inflation and successfully continue healthy growth, which is crucial not only for China, but the global economy.

US president George W. Bush called President Hu Jintao on Monday to discuss Sino-US relations and the US financial situation. In doing so, Bush acknowledged China's status as a global economic leader, and said that as a leader, it should work with the US to hold up or at least soften the landing of the global economy.

The yuan exchange rate is important in rebalancing the global economy. With a recession looming, the world's major economic entities are watching each other's currencies, and watching the yuan in particular.

While the market expected the Chinese currency to maintain or even drop, the yuan's central parity

rate to the US dollar opened at 6.8009 on Tuesday, a new high and a surge of 200 basis points over the previous trading day.

The US Treasury launched a financial market bailout plan this week, involving as much as US \$700 billion. But this will increase the financial budget deficit and put pressure on the US exchange rate.

Yuan appreciation was recently thought to have hit an end, and even some depreciation has occurred in the forwards market, so Tuesday's jump is confusing. Will the yuan appreciate, depreciate or remain stable?

Market analysts are up in the air over whether the new high is China's reaction to the international financial crisis.

It has been rumored in the market that the government may raise the export tax rebate for electromechanical products, which comprise about 70 percent of China's export total, meaning China is worried about yuan appreciation harming exports.

But analysts are optimistic about the US dollar. Despite financial turmoil and the dollar's aborted bounce, they say the US government's activity in the markets and other country's lagging economic performance may drive the dollar up.

(ChinaStakes.com)



Wu Xiaoling CFP Photo

Regulator sees opportunities in Wall Street crisis

By Huang Daohen

China should seize this opportunity to develop and stabilize its capital market, Wu Xiaoling, vice chairman of parliament's financial and economic affairs committee, said during a financial forum in the capital.

Wu said the subprime crisis had a limited impact on China's economy, and the problem now is to raise market confidence.

The Wall Street crisis triggered turmoil in global markets, and China's financial system cannot remain isolated. However, Wu said the impact of the US financial turmoil on China's economy is more psychological than substantial, since very few domestic funds are involved in the crisis.

The vice chairman also noted that there was no room to increase liquidity by raising the reserve ratio after the government's first interest rate cut in six years last week.

"There is no room for cutting reserve requirement ratios," Wu told China Security Journal.

"Such a cut would only allow commercial banks to create more money, and as a result add to inflation pressure," she said.

Mexico, China sign to support trade

By Venus Lee

ProMexico's CEO Bruno Ferrari announced September 24 that Mexico and China will sign an agreement to enhance the trade relation between both nations.

Bruno said that the volume of trade between Mexico and China has increased considerably over the past years. To promote and consolidate trade cooperation between the two countries, ProMexico and China's Investment Promotion Agency will sign an agreement memorandum based upon bilateral businesses.

The agreement will stipulate exchange of business information and potential investors' references, along with investment promotions and constant and fluent communication between Mexican and Chinese governments.

Microsoft's Asia R&D reveals 'Human Cube'

By Zheng Lu

Searchers are familiar with traditional engines like Google and Yahoo, but Renlifang is putting a new spin on how to use the Internet.

Renlifang, translated as "Human Cube", shows the relationships between people on a map-like net. Each person is represented by colored circles that correlate on a map based on their similarity to other people. The person searched for is the center of the results. Lines connecting people display related news and include the people's names.

The new technology is called Object-level Vertical Search, according to Microsoft Research Asia. Compared to keywords-based searches, the results of object-based searches are "more obvious." It shifts away from the traditional page rank to a popularity rank. Currently, the technology only works in Chinese.

It may be fresh and interesting, but it is hardly perfect.

Because the engine harvests all information from a given Web site, it often leads to inaccurate relationships. For example, a search for 'Yao Ming' will not only show his girlfriend Ye Li, but also an unrelated singer Li Yuchun, who is his sister according to the map. The source of the error is a blogger who wrote that Li Yuchun looks like Yao, and so many call her his sister.

The search calculates how popular a person is by how many Web sites mention him. This effectively shuts common people out of being search targets. Some have questioned whether the data harvesting method may constitute an invasion of privacy.

Author of 'Tomato Garden' XP squashed



HongLei's arrest came as a shock to the IT world.

Photo provided by Sina.com

By Wang Yu

The controversial "Tomato Garden" edition of Microsoft's Windows XP met its end in China when developer Hong Lei was arrested by the People's Procuratorate of Suzhou on September 18, Beijing Youth Daily reported.

Hong's father confirmed that

Hong had been under detention since August 15. The server which hosted Hong Lei's Web site and his modified version of Windows XP was also shut down, and the company which supplied the hosting had its equipment seized.

According to Chinese law, a suspect may be detained for up

to 30 days, while the local procuratorate has seven days to consider whether or not to formally arrest a suspect. Hong's detention would have ended Sunday had he not been charged.

The IT community was abuzz, as his pirated edition of Windows XP is popular in the PC market. The modified software requires no product activation, beautifies the interface of Windows and disables functions that are not necessary for normal users. The pirated system was estimated to be installed in 10 million computers in China.

Hong Lei founded his "Tomato Garden" Web site in 2003 to provide the latest edition of his Windows XP, as well as common services like a BBS, blog and ringtones. He probably did not make a profit, as the download was free and most

"Tomato Garden" Windows XP CDs on the market were mass produced by pirates. Some users complained that the modified system was packed with tools from other IT corporations, like the "Yahoo! Assistant," which may have funneled advertising revenue to Hong.

Not long after Hong's detention, an audio clip was recorded by his friend Zheng Zhaozui in 2006. In it, Hong stated that he made roughly 100,000 yuan per month in advertising revenue from the spyware integrated into his pirate Windows XP system.

Microsoft stated in August that Hong's arrest was instigated by the company's complaint to a related governmental department. The department had long been blamed for its negligence in enforcing intellectual property protections.

Investors eye health care application

By Huang Daohen

Investment in the IT application sector of the health care industry is drawing more interest, a senior official said Tuesday in Beijing.

"This is a good time for capital markets to invest in the health care industry, as the government is paying more attention to that sector," Fu Zheng, vice chairman of the China Hospital Information

Management Association, said during the China Healthcare IT Summit 2008, hosted by a finger-print and facial recognition software company RCG.

The summit, held to promote development of the health care sector, presented the latest and most innovative solutions.

"Reaping returns of five to 10 times your original investment in

three to five years is no longer an easy thing in the US," Fu said, adding that developing countries like China will provide a host of opportunities for investors in the health care sector.

A report released by RCG showed that Chinese hospitals have seen their business volumes grow dramatically in recent years, while their medical staff are working

longer hours with greater patient loads. The rising demand drives hospital administrators to seek out innovative IT solutions to upgrade hospital management standards and enhance patient satisfaction.

Hospitals are using IT to optimize service, enhance quality and minimize service costs to strengthen patient confidence, Raymond Chu, chairman of RCG, said.

Henan man busted for 'torrenting' porn

By Han Manman

A man in Nanyang, Henan Province, was fined 1,900 yuan for downloading pornography from the Internet.

Ren Zhiqi is the 28-year-old owner of an auto parts store. On August 18, two police officers from the Nanyang station took away his computer. Days later, Ren received a 1,900 yuan fine, the offense being that a 30 minute-long porn video was found on his computer.

Ren admitted he downloaded the video from the Internet last year, but thought one download hardly merited a 1,900-yuan fine.

According to Chinese law, it is illegal to "use the Internet to create, copy, retrieve or disseminate feudal superstition,

obscene or pornographic material, gambling, violence, murder, horror or incitement to commit a crime."

Nanyang police said he was fined because of how he downloaded the video. The software he used, a BitTorrent client, made

him and uploader while he was receiving the file. Police said this act, called seeding, meant Ren was contributing to the spread

of porn.

Ren said he will appeal to the Nanyang police station to reconsider his case.

Comment

I didn't break the law

I knew it was wrong to watch porn, but I was just watching it by myself. I did not spread it, so my behavior did not affect anyone else. I don't think I broke the law.

—Ren Chaoqi

A gateway to

This kind of thing is common. We found porn on Ren's computer. If we did not alert people and fine him, it could lead to more immoral acts. We dealt with a similar case the year before last. The criminal was, at first, content

to download and watch porn. But eventually he went on to establish his own porn site.

—Yang Youfu, director general of the substation of the Nanyang Public Security Bureau

Not enough evidence

The police did not find evidence to show Ren spread porn or organized its viewing. Fining him just because he watched porn is not appropriate. Chinese law states explicitly that when an individual has downloaded porn, the appropriate administrative

action is to locate its source. If Ren did not spread it, then the police should investigate the Web site that provided it.

—Bi Xianxing, lawyer from Nanyang Dawei law office

Clear borders needed

We fully support the attitude of the Internet police who monitor unhealthy information like porn, but there needs to be a clear boundary to say what they cannot do. Their enforcement should not infringe on individual rights.

—Ma Bin, Ma Bin, the CCTV show host

Fearing for privacy

The whole thing is preposterous! Not the fine, but just the idea that your privacy can be breached and then, because you have porn on your computer, must be fined just for having watched it.

And what gives police the right to search other people's computers? Does this mean polices can come in the middle of the night and randomly search people's computers?

—Li Zheng, a netizen

Pop icon a symbol of social reform?



Li Yuchun, 24, a pop singer who found fame in the Super Girls TV contest is selected as one of the most influential people of the last 30 years.

CFP Photo

By Zhang Dongya

This year is the 30th anniversary of the Reform and Open-door Policy, first implemented in 1978. An event to evaluate who has left their mark on the past 30 years was initiated by the *Southern Metropolis Daily* last week.

A total of 100 people were selected as influential candidates, and this group will be whittled down to 30 persons.

Li Yuchun, the pop singer who won the televised "Super Girl" contest, as among the first 100 names. Though she graced the cover of *Time Magazine Asia's* special issue in 2005 as one of

Asia's Heroes, her inclusion has the pop icon back at the center of controversy.

Many cannot accept that a girl contestant on a TV show ranks beside Yuan Longping, the agriculturalist called "Father of Hybrid Rice," or Yang Liwei, the first Chinese astronaut.

Supporters said Li was selected by 3 million votes cast by the nationwide audience three years ago, showing strong public support.

Organizers said it was not the final list, and that all the candidates were named by public via SMS messages or the Internet.

Comment

A symbol and label

I don't like Li, but I admit she is noteworthy as a social symbol. Though she did not change history, she still serves as a yardstick of social development. She may be just a star from a TV show, but at that moment, history chose her as its spokesperson.

—Qian Yu, professor from Nanjing

A modern day Cinderella

You cannot lump in a plain girl who became a star overnight with common celebrity. When we talk about figures who mark the time, we always turn to big names. But in modern times, things should begin from grass roots. People need to believe that a duck can one day become a swan.

—Wang Pan, critic with Henan Business Daily

A total farce

Li's success in the TV program is just an entertainment event. Yes, she was chosen by as many as 3 million votes. They were voting to pick one girl out of a group of singers, not voting to say she represents the times. I cannot agree that she has anything to do with the Reform and Open-door Policy.

—Dangzi, critic with Rednet.cn

Ambassadors and their wives turning on to Taichi

By Jackie Zhang

It is common to see groups of people, mostly old, gathering to practice Taichi in parks and communities. As a part of traditional culture and a martial art, foreigners are interested too: even ambassadors and their wives.

The Sixth Friendship Competition of Ambassadors and Madams on Knowing Chinese Culture gives these ambassadors and their wives a chance to learn the art form. Launched last Saturday, Taichi is the main theme of this year's competition. The ambassadors and their wives from 61 countries will have special training courses for over half a month and participate

in the finals on October 11.

The ambassador of Bengal and his wife said they were very excited about it. Ambassador Munshi Faiz Ahmad had been studying and working in China for seven years. Before he became the ambassador of Bengal in China, he and his wife lived and worked in Singapore. When they were in China and in Singapore, they saw people practice Taichi. "They practiced along with music in the parks. I was quite interested but I didn't know how to do it," the ambassador's wife, Fahmida Lazul Ahmad, said.

"I thought of learning it, but I didn't approach them and ask

them to teach me," the ambassador said. "The teacher is very nice. She teaches carefully and explains the gestures we don't understand."

In Ahmad's point of view, Taichi is a peaceful sport which keeps him healthy. "The gestures are soft and beautiful. The important thing is it keeps people balanced and at peace." But Ahmad also has difficulties to overcome. "I don't know how to move my body from one side to the other. It takes time, I think."

The Ahmad couple is quite excited about their place in the class. "I told my daughters that their father and I came to learn

Taichi and I will teach them when they come to China. I want to teach my friends and my relatives. I used to see others do it, but now I can do it as well. I will definitely continue to practice it even after the training finishes. And my husband is a sports fan. He plays different kinds of sports and now, he will practice Taichi as well."

Besides the Ahmads, many ambassadors and their wives from other countries like Egypt, South Korea, Brunei, Canada and Zambia have also participated. "Some ambassadors are worried they will lose in the competition. But, it is not a real competition at all. We won't select who is the best

but encourage them with different awards like who made the most progress in learning or whose gesture was the most beautiful," Xing Jun, secretary general of the organization, said.

"We started preparation for the Taichi training competition last year. The teacher, Zhang Li, we invited, is a master in Yang-style Taichi. It is a chance we offer to the ambassadors and their wives to get closer to Chinese culture and even participate in it," Xing said. "Besides Taichi, Chinese folk art photographing, Chinese calligraphy and Chinese opera learning and performing are also included."

Model hunter seeks out new Chinese faces

By Gan Tian

Twenty contestants from northern China representing the most beautiful rising stars took part in the Elite Model Look 2008 China semi-final competition in town last Saturday evening.

Elite Model Look has produced supermodels like Cindy Crawford, Linda Vojtova and Gisele Bundchen. Now it wants to dip into the Chinese market. David Lim, the chairman of Elite Model Look China, has been in Beijing last few weekends, especially for the semi-finals. The Singaporean beauty hunter was pleased to see the new stars competing in China. "I am glad Elite Model Look has taken place here in China," Lim said. He was most satisfied with the winners, saying they had a pretty faces and great talent.

Lim has been involved in the model industry since 1995 when the Elite Model Look competition first came to China.



Elite models will make the finals in Shanghai this weekend. Photo provided by Elite Model Look China

He admitted that this was the right time for the competition to examine the Chinese market. During the first years of Elite Model Look in China, the company gave license to some local companies to organize the com-

petition. "There were not many model competitions at that moment. A lot of people were interested in the event like sponsors, media, model agencies and fashion circles," Lim said. However, after five or six

years, Lim found out the situation was not the same. "More and more model competitions appeared with more of the fashion media taking part. Some sponsors lost interest and enthusiasm." It was then that

the company realized it should come to China.

However, Lim is not confident in China's current fashion and model situation. "I think there is a lot of catching up to do," he said. It was not enough that there were just good models. "The environment is also very important in the industry. For example, besides models, one needs top colorists, stylists and fashion brands from Paris or Milan," Lim said, "The content is not here in China. The business is not mature."

Lim believes a good model cannot just depend on her face. "They have to know how to cooperate with the photographer and have knowledge of the fashion world." His company has worked with modeling schools in Milan. "We sent some of the models to the school for further study, so that there will be more Chinese faces on the world fashion stage."

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China Open opens after the Olympics



Top players show up in traditional Chinese clothes at the opening.

By Wang Yu

The 2008 China Open Tennis Tournament officially kicked off on September 20 at the Beijing Tennis Center. It is the fifth year for the event since the tournament began in 2003.

Tennis has garnered much attention from related governmental departments of sport and the Chinese media since Li Ting and Sun Tiantian won the gold in women's doubles at the Athens Olympics in 2004. But the men's tournament is an ATP International Series which is the lowest level in the ATP games and offers 175 points to the winner similar to the female event due to its short history.

A minor tournament does not attract world top players, especially since the China Open is held in September, close to the end of the year and right after the Grand Slam US Open. However, the Beijing Olympics

stunned the world and could be a turning point in changing the minds of top-class players and officials.

This year's games are scheduled from 20th to 28th and feature 124 matches. It is also the first year that the men's and women's races take place in the same week which is not usually the schedule adopted by the organizers apart from the Grand Slams.

Six out of the world's top ten female players such as Ana Ivanovic, Svetlana Kuznetsova and Jelena Jankovic will showcase their talents in Beijing during this week. The focus of local tennis fans, four of the five Chinese female players were defeated on the second day leaving only Zheng Jie who defeated Agnieszka Radwanska 6-2, 6-3. Former World No.1 Amelie Mauresmo lost her game unexpectedly 6-3, 4-6, 3-6 to Dominika Cibulkova in the first round.

"Most of the time I was influenced by physical injuries, which have caused a lot of problems for me. During the past two months I was ok, but it is really tough for me to lose in the first match at the China Open," Mauresmo said at a press conference after the match.

On the men's side, led by the world-ranked number 5 David Ferrer of Spain, stars such as Andy Roddick, Richard Gasquet and Fernando Gonzalez all have a bye in the first round.

On Tuesday two other Spanish players earned wins. Sixth-seeded Tommy Robredo who was the runner-up in last year's China Open advanced in this year's bracket for the hard court tournament with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Guillermo Garcia-Lopez. After taking out Alexandre Kudryavtsev 6-4, 6-3, Juan Carlos Ferrero also advanced to the second round.

Photos provided by Beijing Youth Daily

ATP players appear at China Open



Andy Roddick

By Wang Yu

After going the first three months of 2008 without winning any titles, nobody would have thought that Rafael Nadal would surpass Roger Federer as the world No 1 in the following four months. The two top players have left all the other top 10s far behind during the last few years due to their popularity both amongst fans and media. It does not matter whether Federer will reclaim the top spot or not, the rivalry between the two will continue to be the most engrossing one on the ATP circuit.

But other players are trying their best for the rankings and have also showed great performances on the courts.

As the No.1 seeded player, Ferrer reached his highest ranking to date on February 25 as the world's No.4 player. But the Spaniard was apparently not in a good condition as he lost his open match to Israel's Duli Sela 3-6, 3-6 yesterday. "I was not thinking about the Davis Cup, my rival played well and I have so many tours to

play including next week in Tokyo. The most important thing for me is to rest and adjust," Ferrer said.

Defeated by Ferrer in a 5-set match at the Davis Cup last weekend, the courts of the Beijing Tennis Center may be the best arena for Andy Roddick to regain victory. In his first match yesterday, Roddick defeated his countryman Brendan Evans 6:4, 6:3 with 17 aces. "I'm not so worried about that," Roddick said when asked about his future collaborator after the match and indicated that things should wait until the Tennis Master Cup in Shanghai is over.

Juan Carlos Ferrero has great popularity in China and the organizers arranged his first match on the central court. "It's hard to rank in the top 10 during these past 4 or 5 years. Today's tennis players are competitive. I was badly injured and forced to withdraw from the games for 5 months. It influenced my performance," Ferrero said at a press conference. It is the second time he has participated in a China Open since 2005.



Ana Ivanovic

Ivanovic has high hopes after Olympic withdrawal

By Huang Daohen

Ana Ivanovic is the No 1 seed in name only after her loss in the second round at last month's US Open. She has not won a major victory since the French Open in May, but the 20-year-old Serbian sensation is hoping for good luck in Beijing to bag her first China Open title.

"I'm very, very happy just to be here to compete," Ivanovic said Monday. "It's already a great achievement. After the Olympics, I thought I might not be able to compete here."

Ivanovic retired from the Beijing Olympics with a right thumb injury in August but she believes her second trip to China's capital city will be different.

"My second visit to Beijing is quite different," she said. "I'm happy to see that tennis is popular here. There are so many fans. They even come to the practice court to watch players training."

"I hope this time I can stay longer," she added.

Ivanovic has dealt with right-thumb pain for two months. After the Olympics, she flew to Australia to see a thumb specialist before attending the US Open. She called it, "one of the hardest days of my career so far."

"I went all over the world the last couple of months trying to find the reason for my pain and to solve the problem," Ivanovic said. "I'm just happy to finally be without pain."

She had a smashing beginning to 2008, making the Australian finals before losing to Maria Sharapova and then winning the French open, topping Dinara Safina.

However, her days in the sun were numbered after winning the French Slam, as she withdrew from Eastbourne with a right adductor injury before losing to Zheng Jie in the third round at Wimbledon.

Her situation didn't improve in North America, as she lost in the second round at the US Open and in the third round at Montreal.

"I peaked this year at the French Open," Ivanovic said, "At Wimbledon I felt low in energy and emotional levels. Before the US Open I only got five days to practice. It was too short a time for such an important tournament."

"Recently I have felt less pain and with practice, I am getting back on track. I think I need to be patient and try to adjust to the changes. I'm really happy to be back," she said.

Ivanovic received a bye in round one and faced world-ranked No.18 Alize Cornet in the second round yesterday.

The French player, who broke into the top 20 in May, battled into round two with a 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 victory over local player Shuai Zhang on Tuesday.

Sixth seed Agnieszka Radwanska could remain in the quarter-finals, while No 4-ranked Svetlana Kuznetsova is a potential semi-final adversary.

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Venues hot for the holiday

By Han Manman

The Olympic venues will open to the public during the National Day holiday between September 28 and October 5, according to the Beijing Tourism Bureau this week.

The venues will open from 9 am to 9 pm. There will be 80,000 tickets per day for the Bird's Nest, each costing 50 yuan. Visiting the Water Cube will cost 30 yuan and there will be 12,000 tickets available per day during the holiday.

Wang Chun, secretary-general of the Olympic Green management committee, said up to 20,000 people will be able to visit the National Indoor Stadium each day, and 8,000 will be able to access the international zone at

the Olympic Village. Tickets for both will cost 20 yuan.

Visitors with tickets will be able to tour the central zone of the Olympic Green, but not the Olympic Forest Park, he said.

The all inclusive ticket costs 100 yuan to have a package tour of the above venues.

Ticketmaster China, the only agency authorized to sell Olympic venue tickets, began selling in Beijing on Monday. People can get more information by calling 6538 8359.

The Olympic Forest Park will also open to the public during the holiday, but tickets will be distributed free to local communities and will not go on sale.



Citizens wait for the Olympic venues' tickets near the Workers' Stadium. CFP Photo

Zhang Huiguang, head of the Beijing tourism administration, said the opening of Olympic

venues to the public will be a boost for the capital's tourism business over the holiday period.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:
weiyi@ynet.com

Where can I find good basketball courts in Chaoyang District?

The east gate of Chaoyang Park (Chao Yang Gong Yuan, Dong Men) has five or six courts. There's an indoor court at the Kerry Centre where a lot of expat players gather, but is a little more expensive. The one in Dongdan, right next to Oriental Plaza Shopping Mall is the best at 15 yuan for a day.

Where can I buy ping pong gear and where I can find people with whom to practice?

You can buy it online at Taobao or at any sports gear store such as the department stores on Wangfujing Avenue. There are some locals who play ping pong in the afternoon in the residential garden on the east side of Sanlitun Bei Lu. Many local residential compounds have one or two ping pong tables. Just invite your neighbors to play with you. If you are a beginner, play with most Chinese kids who are usually at a good level.

Are there any scuba diving lessons offered in Beijing? Where can I find them?

There are some places introducing diving and basic practice. Go to sinoscuba.com for more detailed information.

I saved my dog from a dog restaurant here. It's a collie. When my landlord came today, he asked me to get rid of my dog. He said that my dog is too big and it is not allowed. I am not sure if I can trust what my landlord said. Is there anything I can do?

It is true that downtown areas forbid large dogs. But still, you might have seen some people walking their big dogs late at night around Sanlitun area. Some big dog owners told *Beijing Today* that they did worry about bumping into police and losing their dogs. If you live in places like Tongxian, east of Beijing, some areas are allowed to have big dogs while some are not.

Does anyone know where there are any scooter stores? I cannot find anything on line. How much should I pay for one?

There are many bike stores and scooter stores around Beixinqiao, Jiaodaokou Dajie and Gulou Dong Dajie. All are close to the famous Nanluguixiang and Ghost (food) Street within second ring road. Just walk west straight from Dongzhimen subway station. Scooter prices range differently from over 1,000 to around 4,000 yuan, depending on the make.

(By Wei Ying)

Popular suburban train routes around town



A family takes the S2 to the Badaling Great Wall. CFP Photo

By Annie Wei

This year, more and more local families say trains save gas and offer a smooth, worry-free trip. According to local train stations, tickets to popular places from September 28 to 30 have almost sold out.

Beijing Today handpicked the most recommended train routes around the capital for an easy and relaxing October trip.

Baishuizi Forest Park

Train: 6095/6437 from Beijing to Yeshanpo

Cost: 7 yuan

The park has a temple and three stone Buddha sculptures. The Buddha sculptures are the biggest of their kind in Beijing since the

Yuan and Ming dynasties.

How to get there: get off at Yanshan train station and walk to the park. The entrance to the park is free.

Mangshan National Forest Park and Tianchi Lake

Train: 4449/6453 from Beijing to Huairoubei

Cost: 7 yuan

It is the biggest national forest park in Beijing with a man-made lake on the top of the mountain.

How to get there: Get off at Guangao train station and walk to Tianchi Panshan express way.

Open: The park is open between 7 am - 6 pm and the lake is open to public during the National Holiday. The park costs 20 yuan and the

lake costs 10. Student-pass holders get a 50-percent discount.

Luopolin water reserve with a nice view

Train: 4415 from Beijing to Guanting Xi

Cost: 8 yuan

How to get there: Get off at Luopolin train station and there is no admission fee.

Zhenzhuhu scenery

Train: Train: 4415 from Beijing to Guanting Xi

Cost: 8 yuan

It has beautiful scenes and is called Beijing's three gorges or Lijiang (a famous scenic stop at Yansuo, Guangxi-Zhuang Autonomous Region).

How to get there: Get off at

Zhuwo train station and walk 2 kilometers.

Open: 8 am - 5 pm (on the weekends). It costs 20 yuan but student-pass holders get 50-percent discount

Badaling Great Wall

Train number: S2 from Beijing north railway station to Badaling Great Wall

Cost: 19-23 yuan

How to get there: Take the new inner city train S2, an 80-minute journey.

Tickets can be bought at many train ticket agencies.

Make sure from which train station the train departs. Most trains depart from the Beijing North Railway Station.

A pet paradise for the holidays

By Zheng Lu

During this holiday time, to meet the demands of both people and their pets', a vacation village for dogs will hold its first festival. Jiangrun Village on the outskirts of Tongzhou district has plenty of room to become a paradise for pets and owners. The animals get the freedom to dine alongside their owners at the hall, as well as stay in the same room at night.

First Jiangrun Pets Festival

The festival offers interactive games between people and pets, volunteer medical consultation for dogs, displays of famous dogs and pet culture, picking Chinese dates,

fishing and drawing lots. It even has an etiquette and hairdressing class for dogs on the last day.

When: September 30 to October 4

Where: Zhangjiawan Village, Industrial Development Zone, Tongzhou

Cost: 15 yuan per ticket

Tel: 6150 9295

Happydog Restaurant

Very few restaurants in Beijing allow dogs to enter. This one treats dogs as diners and holds birthday parties for dogs.

Where: B1, Building No.15, Zhujiangdijing Nanjie, Xi Dawanglu, Chaoyang

Cost: average 50 yuan

Tel: 5863 3566

Coolbaby Pets Park

A place is more suited to small dogs.

Where: old east gate of Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang

Cost: 10 yuan per ticket

Tel: 6500 6281

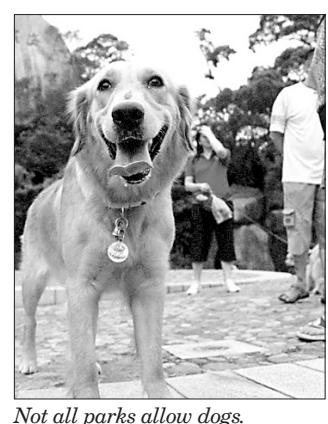
Buck Commune

Standing on the balcony, a visitor can see the Great Wall and surrounding mountains

Where: 19 miles from Xi Yanqi Huandao, Huairou

Cost: 180 yuan for a standard room, 280 yuan for a double room

Tel: 6162 9203



Not all parks allow dogs.

CFP Photo

For many who will arrive over the next few months, they may be curious to explore and collect memorabilia. From this week through the end of September, *Beijing Today* will present a series of guides. The guides include current popular sites for food and shopping, and will lead visitors to sites of interest too new for the guidebooks. We hope you can feel the pulse of the city and dig deep into Beijing's daily life.



9 Cube Art Museum

Exhibition

ChenJianBin and Xiaohui Joint Exhibition

Works from the 80s generation artists are more easy and light-hearted compared to those of the 60s, because their experiences in life are simple and they are influenced so much by cartoons and games and by living a much more comfortable life that they use simple lines and shapes to express what they want. While viewing their works, you will feel more relaxed. In this show you will see that ChenJianBin and Xiaohui's work is typical of the 1980s.

Where: Artist Village Gallery, 1 North of Renzhuang, Songzhuang, Tongzhou
When: Until October 31, daily 8 am - midnight
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 6959 8343

Depth of Field

Where: 9 Cube Art Museum, Brewery International Art Garden, Beihuqu Lu, Chaoyang
When: Until October 26, daily except Monday 10 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free

Refuse to grow up – Solo Exhibition of Bian Qing

Where: 3818 Cool Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Until October 7, daily except Monday 10:30 am - 6:30 pm
Admission: free
Tel: 8688 2525, 8456 6664

Zhang Guo Qiang Solo Exhibition

Where: Bada Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Until October 27, daily

except Monday 1-6:30 pm
Admission: free

PixCell – Kohei Nawa Solo Exhibition

Where: Pekin Fine Arts, 241 Caochangdi, Chaoyang
When: Until October 31, daily except Monday and Tuesday 10 am - 6 pm
Admission: free
Tel: 5127 3220

Heavy Industries – Young-Hae Chang Solo Exhibition

Where: DoART Gallery, 261 Caochangdi, Changyang
When: Until November 2, daily except Monday 10 am - 6 pm
Admission: free
Tel: 8457 4550, 8477 5158

Game of Acting the Fool

Where: Gallery TN, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Until November 22, daily except Monday 10 am - 6 pm
Admission: free
Tel: 8459 9550



Artist Village Gallery



3818 Cool Gallery

By He Jianwei

"What passion cannot music raise and quell?" John Dryden, an English poet in the 17th century, wrote in "A Song for St. Cecilia's Day." The poet described the power and charm of classical music.

The Beijing Music Festival (BMF) will start its 11th season in October, which is China's biggest classical music festival.

BMF was founded in 1998 by conductor Yu Long, who had been its artistic director from 1998 to 2004 and president of the Festival Arts Foundation from 2005. Now the festival has become one of the most significant and creative cultural events in the world. Annually, in the golden autumn, internationally-renowned musicians and orchestras will give performances of operas, symphonic and chamber music concerts, musicals and even jazz.

The 11th BMF will be the feast of operas. The Deutsche Opera Berlin will perform two operas, *Der Rosenkavalier* (The Knight of the Rose) and *Tannhauser*. The former one is Richard Strauss' second collaboration with the librettist Hofmannsthal who produced the wittiest comedy since Figaro over a century earlier. Since its debut in 1911, it has become the most popular of all Strauss' operas.

The latter is a three-act opera by Richard Wagner written in 1845 based on two German legends. The story centers on the struggle between sacred and profane love, and redemption through love. Wagner wrote a second version for Paris in 1861 which was a failure but the original Dresden version in 1845 is the most frequently performed.

As one of the world's first and foremost period-instrument orchestras, the Academy of Ancient Music will perform the opera *Dido and Aeneas*. It is England's oldest opera, first performed in 1689 and written by Henry Purcell.

What makes the BMF unique among other international music festivals is its spirit of encouraging both Western and Chinese contemporary music. The festival has been always active in commissioning and premiering of new works.

The festival also emphasizes music education. Each year the event offers free children's and students' concerts.

Programs

The 11th Beijing Music Festival Grand Opening Gala

Who: Orchestra of the Deutsche Opera Berlin

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, west side of Tian'anmen inside Zhongshan Park, Xicheng

When: October 2, 7:30 pm

Admission: 980 yuan for VIP, 780, 580, 380, 100 yuan

Richard Strauss: Der Rosenkavalier

Who: Deutsche Opera Berlin

Where: Poly Theater, 14, Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng

When: October 3 and 5, 6:30 pm

Admission: 980 yuan for VIP, 780, 580, 380, 100 yuan

BMF-Commission Concert

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1, Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: October 4, 7:30 pm

Admission: 480 yuan for VIP, 380, 280, 180, 50 yuan

Richard Wagner: Tannhauser

Who: Deutsche Opera Berlin

Where: Poly Theater, Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng

When: October 7 and 10, 6:30 pm

Admission: 980 yuan for VIP, 780, 580, 380, 100 yuan

George Frideric Handel: Messiah

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1, Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: October 11, 7:30 pm

Admission: 480 yuan for VIP, 380, 280, 180, 50 yuan

Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Birth of Giacomo Puccini

Who: Shanghai Opera House
Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, west side of Tian'anmen inside Zhongshan Park, Xicheng

When: October 12, 4 pm, 7 pm and 8:30 pm

Admission: 480 yuan for VIP, 380, 280, 180, 50 yuan

George Frideric Handel: Messiah

Who: Academy of Ancient Music, orchestra and chorus
Where: Wangfujing Catholic Church, 74, Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng

When: October 14, 7:30 pm

Henry Purcell: Dido and Aeneas

Who: Academy of Ancient Music, orchestra and chorus
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1, Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: October 15, 7:30 pm

Admission: 680 yuan for VIP, 480, 280, 180, 80 yuan

Murray Perahia Piano Recital

Who: Murray Perahia
Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, west side of Tian'anmen inside Zhongshan Park, Xicheng

When: October 16, 7:30 pm

Admission: 980 yuan for VIP, 780, 580, 380, 100 yuan

Hilary Hahn with Vancouver Symphony Orchestra

Who: Hilary Hahn and Vancouver Symphony Orchestra
Where: Poly Theater, Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng

When: October 17, 7:30 pm

Admission: 680 yuan for VIP, 480, 280, 180, 80 yuan

Vancouver Symphony Orchestra Children's Concert

Who: Vancouver Symphony Orchestra
Where: Poly Theater, Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng

When: October 18, 11 am

Admission: free

Heroine Trilogy: Mu Guiying, Hua Mulan and Liang Hongyu

Who: Li Liuyi and Guo Wenjing
Where: Capital Theater, 22, Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng

When: October 18, 11 am, 3 pm and 7:30 pm

Admission: 200 yuan per performance for VIP, 120 and 60 yuan for each performance; 300 yuan three performances for VIP, 200 and 120 yuan for three performances

The 11th Beijing Music Festival Closing Gala

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra
Where: Poly Theater, Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng

When: October 19, 7:30 pm

Admission: 980 yuan for VIP, 780, 580, 380, 100 yuan

May music rai

Rise and quell your passion



Stage

Concert

Goodbye and Hello: Cai Jianya 2008 Asia Tour Beijing Live

Who: Cai Jianya
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: September 26, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-1,000 yuan
Tel: 6835 4455

Dejan Lazic Piano Recital

Who: Dejan Lazic
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng
When: September 28, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Classic Concert by China National Symphony Orchestra

Who: China National Symphony Orchestra
Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: September 27, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Paul Badura-Skoda Piano Recital

Who: Paul Badura-Skoda
Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: September 28, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-580 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Concert by Duocai Guizhou Symphony Orchestra

Who: Duocai Guizhou Symphony Orchestra
Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: September 26, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-380 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Eason Chan 2008 Beijing Concert

Who: Eason Chan
Where: Beijing Workers Gymnasium, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang
When: September 28, 7:30 pm
Admission: 120-1,280 yuan
Tel: 6417 7845

The Japanese Kabuki Rock Tour 2008

Who: Miyavi
Where: Star Live, 79 Hepin Xi Lu, Dongcheng
When: September 28, 3 pm
Admission: 280-880 yuan
Tel: 5123 3866

Purely France – Recital by Piano Virtuoso Pascal Roge, France

Who: Pascal Roge
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng
When: September 30, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Large-Screen Audio-Visual Concert for Film and Light Music

Who: Firefly Light Music Group
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng
When: October 1, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-880 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Peter Donohoe Piano Recital

Who: Peter Donohoe
Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: October 2, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-580 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Concert by Mongolian Central Culture Palace and Aidija Choir

Who: Mongolian Central Culture Palace and Aidija Choir
Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: October 5, 2 pm
Admission: 60-180 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Concert by Northern Lights Quartet

Who: Northern Lights Quartet
Where: PKU Centennial Memorial Hall, 116 Zhongguancun Bei Dajie, Haidian
When: October 5, 7:30 pm
Admission: 20-150 yuan
Tel: 6275 8452

Continued on page 14 ...

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Dali

Outdoors

Round Tower Great Wall

Round Tower is a lookout and beacon tower which is part of the Great Wall in Miyun.

From the top you will enjoy amazing views in almost every direction – a deep canyon on one side, mountains on the other and a broad view of the Beijing plains and the path up and down the mountain.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Lido Holiday Inn, Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang)

When: September 28, 8 am

Cost: 350 yuan

Tel: 13910025516 (reservations are essential)

Yunnan Tour: Dali, Lijiang and Shangri-La

Yunnan is one of the most colorful and beautiful areas in the country. It is also famous for its colorful ethnic minorities, including the Naxi and Tibetan to Dai, Lisu, Yi and Hani.

Dali, known for its Bai minority people was an important trading town on the Southern Silk Road. The trip will also take you to Lijiang, a UNESCO World heritage site and Shangri-La.

When: Fly to Kunming on September 29 and fly back on October 5

Cost: 10,750 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)

Olympic Green Bike Tour

Discover Beijing's oldest and most modern sites on this bike tour. Explore the city's most important political, historical and social spots, traveling around from the oldest parts of town to the newly-built Olympic Stadium, the Bird's Nest.

Where: meet at Cycle China Office, 12 Jingshan Dongjie, Dongcheng

When: September 29

Cost: 200-350 yuan

Tel: 6402 5653 (reservations are essential)

Ox Street Mosque and Muslim Quarters Walk

This walk will take you to Niujie District, a largely Muslim community in Xuanwu, which will give you a feel for the unique Muslim quarter in an old Beijing hutong atmosphere.

Walkers will visit an ancient mosque over 1,000 years old, which houses two graves of foreign imams, a library of important Islamic artifacts and gifts from emperors and Islamic country leaders.

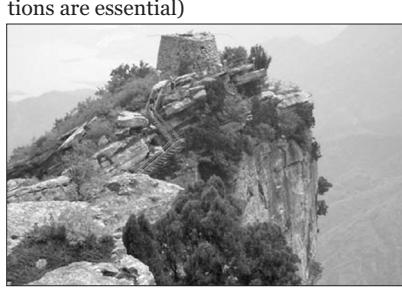
The Chinese Muslims' life and related China's policy will be narrated.

Where: meet in front of the Mosque (18 Niujie Mosque, Xuanwu)

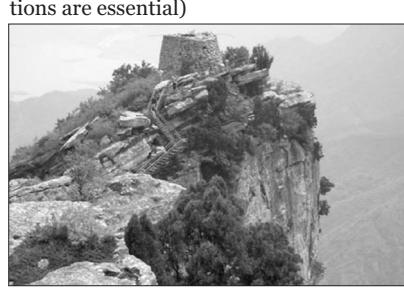
When: September 28, 2 pm

Cost: 100 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)



Round Tower Great Wall



Round Tower Great Wall



Duo of Nicolas Godin and Jean Benoit Dunckel – AIR

Nightlife

Nan Wu, 24 Hours, Hedgehog Joint Show

Three bands will join forces to present a marvelous show. 24 Hours is one of the bands, comprised three youths who call for self development and free spirit and are good at using primal passion to create rough-edged music.

Where: D22, 242 Chengfu Lu, Wudaokou, Haidian

When: September 27, 9 pm

Tel: 6265 3177

AIR Close-Up Tour 2008

The revered duo of Nicolas Godin and Jean Benoit Dunckel – AIR brings Beijing's cultural scene back to life for the fall with two exclusive shows at Yugong Yishan.

As the name of their last opus Pocket Symphony indicates, the atmosphere of this album is especially suited to intimate venues and has been conceived as a mini orchestra with the usual Moogs but with the addition of the Japanese shamisen and koto, derived from the Chinese guzheng, on which Nicolas Godin apprenticed with a Japanese master.

Old fans of the legendary "Moon Safari" will find themselves in familiar territory with this show's pastoral atmosphere and new fans will have much to discover.

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Courtyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, 2-3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng

When: September 26 and 27, 9 pm

Admission: 550-700 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

Bad Apples Live

California blues brothers, Bad Apples put forth a harmonic combination of rock, reggae and blues late into the evening.

Where: Lotus Blue, Inside Lotus Lane, 51-56 Dianmen Dong Dajie, Xicheng

When: September 27, 9: 30 pm

Tel: 6617 2599

Acupuncture One-Year Anniversary Party

Where: Star Live, 79 Hepin Xi Lu, Dongcheng

When: September 30, 9 pm

Admission: 70-180 yuan

Tel: 5123 3866



Folk Activities

Cookery: hand-pulled noodles and dumplings

Longevity noodles, different from the Shaanxi style thick and elastic ones, are made for birthdays, especially for the elderly. They are made by pulling dough into thin "longevity" noodles in a few minutes without cutting by knife or any other tools.

Then two types of Jiaozi are made with different fillings and flavors (vegetable and meat).

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 28, 10:30 am - 1 pm

Cost: 200 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

Book talk

An Evening With Guo Xiaolu

Rising star of film and literature, London-based director and novelist Guo Xiaolu will share her most recent film shoot in Sichuan. She'll screen a short film, read from her new novel *20 Fragments of a Ravenous Youth* and present some of her most recently translated poetry.

Where: The Bookworm, 4 Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 30, 7:30 pm

Admission: 20-30 yuan

Tel: 6586 9507

Movie



The Equation of Love and Death

I Ay, Carmela

This 1990 Spanish film directed by Carlos Saura is based on the play by Jose Sanchis Sinisterra.

Where: Beijing Institute Cervantes, A 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 26, 7 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 5879 9666

Losers and Winners

Where: Beijing Channel Zero Media, 7G Building 4 Meilin Garden, 33 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian

When: September 25, 7 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 8855 0622

The Equation of Love and Death (Li Mi de Caixiang)

Zhou Xun plays a traumatized taxi driver whose life has become devoted to searching for her missing boyfriend. The film was written and directed by Cao Baoping.

Where: Movie theaters around town

(By Li Jing)



Wakafu does it Japanese style



Bathing package

Photo provided by Wakafu

By Gan Tian

The usual concept of the Japanese lady is someone who is always gentle, sweet and very respectful to her husband. Lonely Wakafu at Xidan is a little shop where visitors can find things to help realize their "Japanese lady dream."

Wakafu offers the traditional forms of Japanese clothing or Japanese clothes in general called wafuku. There are kimono, yukata, the summer kimono, uchikake, the formal kimono, shiro-maku, the wedding kimono, and other typical garments like nagajugan, underwear, haori, short silk jackets, michiyuki, overcoats, and

makama, Japanese pants.

Originally the word "kimono" literally meant a thing to wear – ki wearing and mono thing – but now is known as a particular type of traditional full-length garment.

The recommended product here is a bath package for 390 yuan, containing a fan, kimono, yukata, nagajugan and a pair of traditional shoes. The light pink kimono is t-shaped, straight-lined robes that fall to the ankle, with collars and wide, full-length sleeves. Kimonos are wrapped around the body, always with the left side over the right – do be careful to follow tradition – and secured by a

wide belt called an obi, which is usually tied at the back. This is the pattern except when dressing the dead for burial.

Traditionally, unmarried women wore a style of kimono called a furisode. Visitors can also find this Japanese garment with floor-length sleeves. Kimono fans in Japan love to take courses on how to put on and wear a kimono and visitors can do the same. The shop owner provides classes covering topics like how to select seasonally and event-appropriate patterns and fabrics, matching

undergarments and accessories to the kimono, layering the undergarments according to subtle meanings, selecting and tying the obi and other topics.

Unfortunately, it is hard to find products for men in the shop but that's OK, for the shop's target is the ladies.

Lonely Wakafu

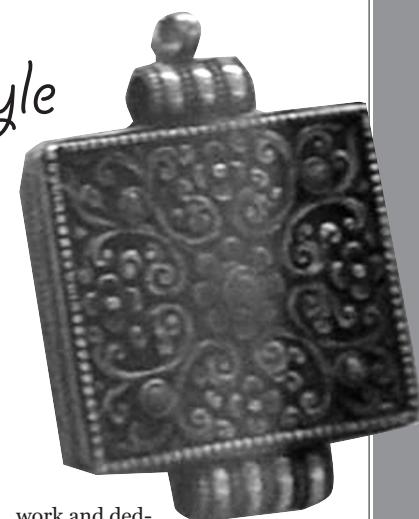
Where: left hand side of the entrance to the underground floor, B1, 77 Street, Xidan, Xicheng District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm



Nepalese bracelet

Nepalese silver necklace



work and dedication. Besides exquisite ornaments, the store also sells Buddhism items and garments like the Indian sari.

Zhaxidele

Where: 238 Dongsi Bei Dajie, Dongcheng district.

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 5199 4099, 5199 4069

Photos by Venus Lee

Ornamental bling, Indian style

By Venus Lee

Among the noble metals, silver is showy yet inexpensive and so enjoy popularity among people of all ages.

If you are a trendy girl who is fed up with gracefully-designed adornments, try a couple of Nepalese or Tibetan style accessories this autumn.

Compared to Tibetan silver, the texture of Nepalese silver is more refined, but the design style of Nepalese silver ornaments is similar to that of Tibetan which has a wild side.

Nepalese handicrafts are famous worldwide not only for their attractive price and quality, but also for the perfect combination of fashion and mystery. There is a Tibetan store called Zhaxidele where you can find many silver ornaments with that deep Nepalese and Tibetan feel, since all its products in the store

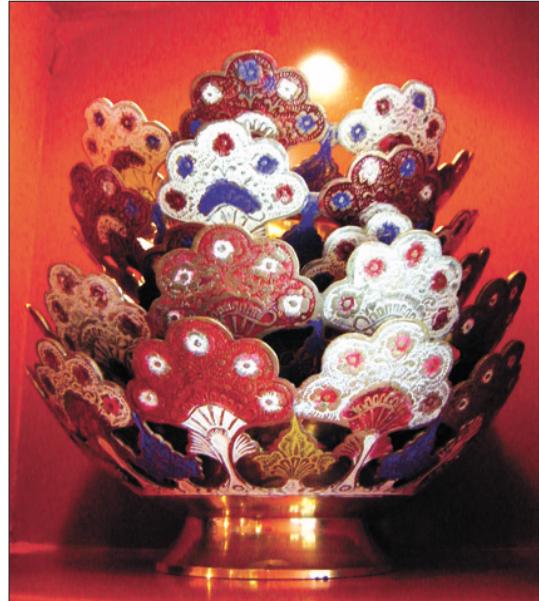
are imported from Nepal, India and Tibet.

Various silver rings, necklaces, bracelets, pendants, hand chains and earrings embedded with precious stones are available in the store. Red coral and kalaite are the main elements on Nepalese silver adornments. Kalaite is regarded as the embodiment of God to the Nepalese, and it has been used in amulets in China since the Neolithic Age. It represents harmony and luck, so it is regarded as the stone of success. Red coral, representing passion and enthusiasm, is not only a keepsake in Buddhism, it also has medicinal value and is said to prevent disease in women, in particular, if they wear it. So people believe firmly that these precious stones bring good luck.

Each ornamental piece in the store is a true piece of art embodied in the artisan's hard



Fume holder



Indian helmet



Closet

Photos by Zheng Lu

Crocs new shoe Baya

This pair of shoes originates from traditional crocs, but with a more fashionable style. The big logo printed aside the shoes delivers a clear message of crocs as well as providing a good ventilation for feet. The well-designed pad gives feet a comfort support. The specially-designed pad helps massage the feet, and helps circulation. Baya is of a softer design, with which you can bend and extend freely. It helps you forget your worries. The special croslite material adds comfort.

**Kids Baya**

This pair of shoes originates from the traditional crocs, with a more fashionable style. The big logo printed on the side of the shoe delivers a clear message as well as providing good ventilation and protection for kid's feet. The strong pad gives good support. The specially-designed nipples on the pad help massage the feet, and aid in blood circulation. Baya is of a softer design, giving kids lots of free movement.

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An star with Indian patterns

**Asian flavor at its finest**

By Zheng Lu

The reason why people are drawn to Indian incense is because of the powerful and pleasant smell the herbs produce. But it is tough for incense-fans to

fully enjoy the mysterious magic of these essences and other south Asian treats since locales in which they are found are few and far between.

In the Laitai Hua Jie, there is a small shop called Tiantang Yan (Eyes of Heaven) as well as the Indian name, Swarka, that sells all things made in southern Asia, especially India.

The incense stages are the most fascinating here. The two major materials in the stages are wood and bronze, but there is a unique

style for each stage. The bronze stage with a little Buddha seated in the front attracts the most attention. It reveals the Indians' religious belief which runs through their lives while offering the aesthetic outlook of the stage. The wooden one with a colorful plate is more fashionable and attracts the younger set. The price of the fume holder is 48 yuan.

Inconspicuous as it may seem, the store never lacks in customers and according to the shopkeeper, most are returning customers.

In fact, Swarka is part of a chain with its main shops in Chengdu and Sichuan. The boss is a former stewardess and doctor who has had legendary experiences on many expeditions. Having trav-

eled to India many times, she found things there were beautiful and suitable to introduce to the Chinese market. Thus the business began from a very small shop on a corner in Chengdu.

The prices of the goods range from less than 20 yuan to thousands. The shopkeeper here says there are mainly three kinds of goods in the shop: clothes, headgear and furniture. All the merchandise comes from India and has traveled a long way to get to Beijing.

And, most importantly, almost everything is unique. As handmade goods, they all differ from each other. There is the fruit tray made into the shape of a cocktail or the pentagram-shaped lamp on the ceiling and the corner cupboard in red and green with an old-fashioned Indian lock catch on it. Each is a treasure for people who appreciate it with their eyes and heart. The price seems secondary.

Tiantang Yan Swarka

Where: 40 Laitai Hua Jie, Chaoyang district
Open: 10:30 am - 9 pm
Tel: 6467 7395
Cost: 48 yuan



Plate with African patterns

**Zolasim lighting up the dark continent**

By Wang Yu

There is no doubt Africa is still the most mysterious continent. African art has one of the most diverse legacies with its people, societies and civilizations as each of them continues with a unique visual and special culture.

Among all art forms, sculpture has been seen as the most important part of African art. The human figure is the primary subject for African art and it, in a sense, led to the introduction of the human body into existing European pottery and other art forms.

In Beijing, Zolasim is the right place for collectors or buyers who want to add a little spark to the style of their bedrooms. The shop focuses on African paintings, wood carvings and raffia works direct from African artists, artisans and craftspeople. Behind the traditional red doors there is a room full of African contemporary African craft works.

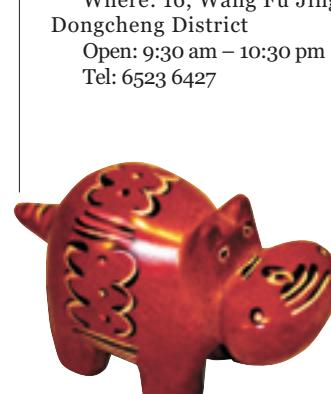
Formerly the boss of a clothes factory, Zhou Li, the owner, started the shop after traveling in Africa and being attracted to its natural and simplistic style. The shop's name originates in the African name Zhou. Li travels to Africa every year to collect handcrafted art works from countries like Tanzania, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Mali.

Some of the best sellers are traditional wooden masks, which can be seen as a representative of African art. People in Africa have been used them in religious or funeral celebrations and theatrical events from ancient times and today. Fabric decorations and carpets of African style are also available in the shop.

The prices differ greatly. A complicated wood-carving may have a price as high as 30,000 yuan while a carved scoop only costs 30 yuan.

Zolasim

Where: 16, Wang Fu Jing Street, Dongcheng District
Open: 9:30 am - 10:30 pm
Tel: 6523 6427



Wooden animal sculptures

Photos by Wang Yu

Beijing's unforgettable flavors

By Gan Tian

For this farewell issue to end its restaurant series, *Beijing Today* dug up the best Asian establishments for small meals and full courses in town. Each restaurant is worth a try before it is time to leave the country.



Crispy shrimps cakes

Photo provided by Muse

Muses of Vietnamese food

By Gan Tian

With a name like Muse Parisian Vietnamese Brasserie, one would think Muse has some connection with Paris. Its Vietnamese owner Le Tin Vincente, born in Saigon, took over the restaurant from former owner Alexis Jouvenel. Its rebirth in Vietnamese flavor realized Le Tin's concept of marrying the atmosphere of his adopted culture with the cuisine of his birth country.

The new Muse remains faithful to its predecessor in decoration and atmosphere; only the cuisine reflects the Indochinese origins of the young restaurateur. The Parisian brasserie serves imperial nems as appetizers to classic beef-onion soup, or soft rice noodles mixed with stir-fried beef and crushed peanuts. The mango sorbet for dessert is not to be missed. All daily specials are handwritten backwards in white chalk, inside the window, faithful to French tradition.

"While I enjoyed eating French food, I was unsatisfied with the variety of dishes. I missed Vietnamese food and the availability of fresh tropical ingredients. The more at home I felt in Paris, the more I longed to share authentic Vietnamese cuisine with my

Parisian friends," Le Tin said. Little by little, he came up with an idea to create a cafe-restaurant which would satisfy his nostalgia for Vietnamese food, while infusing it with a French touch.

Vietnamese foods like Tuna salad mixed with vegetables, Pho Phodaiz, Hpodaiz shrimp rolls, Phodaiz DIY rolls, Shrimp ball with cane sticks, Laosa style fried beef, Vietnamese style Sandwich, Beigium Waffle, Fried fish with phodaiz's sauce and Fried minced beef with vegetables are available.

A typical meal includes individual bowls of rice, a grilled, boiled, steamed, stir fried or stewed meat or fish, a stir-fried, raw or steamed vegetable dish, a canh, Vietnamese broth with vegetables and often meat or seafood, or a prepared fish and soy sauce for dipping.

All dishes are communal and are to be shared apart from the individual bowls of rice.

Muse opened a second branch near the new CCTV tower at East Third Ring Road.

Muse Parisian Vietnamese Brasserie

Where: West Gate of Chaoyang Park, 1 Nongzhan Nan Lu, Chaoyang
Open: 9:30 am - 10:30 pm
Tel: 6586 3188



Roasted meat package

Photo provided by Seoul City Restaurant

Grilled dishes in Korean style

By Jin Zhu

Korean cuisine is well known in Asia for its grilled meat dishes. Its meat has a rather different taste from other grilled dishes. Meats such as beef, chicken and pork are cut into small pieces and wrapped with lettuce, bacon and ribs.

One of best sources for authentic Korean grill in Beijing is Seoul City. While other restaurants rely on portable gas or electric burners, the grilled meat in Seoul City is cooked over charcoal in a brazier – the traditional way. "The restaurant still uses charcoal, as many diners enjoy the taste more than when meat is cooked with gas," one of the waiters said.

Grilled beef is one of the best-loved dishes by lovers of Korean cuisine. The sirloin is cut into thin strips and marinated in a mixture of sesame oil, soy sauce, black pepper, garlic, sugar, ginger

and wine. Afterward, well-marinated beef is cooked on a metal dish over the burner. It is eaten by putting the cooked beef, together with rice, kimchi and shredded vegetables, inside a lettuce wrap.

Grilled seafood is also popular. It uses the entire fish, even the fish head, rather than prime cuts. Some favorite choices of fish are snapper, herring, mackerel and flounder.

Many young diners like to add some new materials to grill, like whole cloves of garlic, sliced onions and chopped green peppers. "Grilling is freestyle cooking. Any favorite food can be grilled however you will like," Niu Jianmin, one of the patrons, said.

Seoul City Restaurant

Where: 19 Huixin Dong Jie, Chaoyang
Open: 10 am - 10 pm
Tel: 6491 2783



Nasi Lemak

Photo provided by Awana Restaurant

Nasi Lemak, Malaysian special

By Venus Lee

One of the most famous Malay snacks is Nasi Lemak, a treat made by stuffing a banana leaf with curry beef, fried shrimp and dollarfish, eggs, peanuts, cucumbers and rice steamed in coconut milk. However, the most important part of the snack is Sambal Belacan, a special chili sauce.

That and a cup of Tarik, a special blend of tea and milk, is all it takes to whisk diners away to the Asian tropics.

Among Beijing's few Malaysian restaurants, Awana always comes out number one. It is affiliated with the Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board and is viewed as the country's edible business card.

Malaysia is a multinational country rich in culture and custom. Its cuisine is a mixture of local styles with India, China, Singapore, Portugal, Holland and Borneo.

Cooks at the restaurant are all from Malaysia. Besides the delicious Nasi Lemak, they also serve Sate, a kind of giant kabob. The pickled beef, lamb, chicken or seafood is roasted and dipped in Satay, a sauce made of peanut butter, coconut jam and baby shrimp, for a mouthwatering experience.

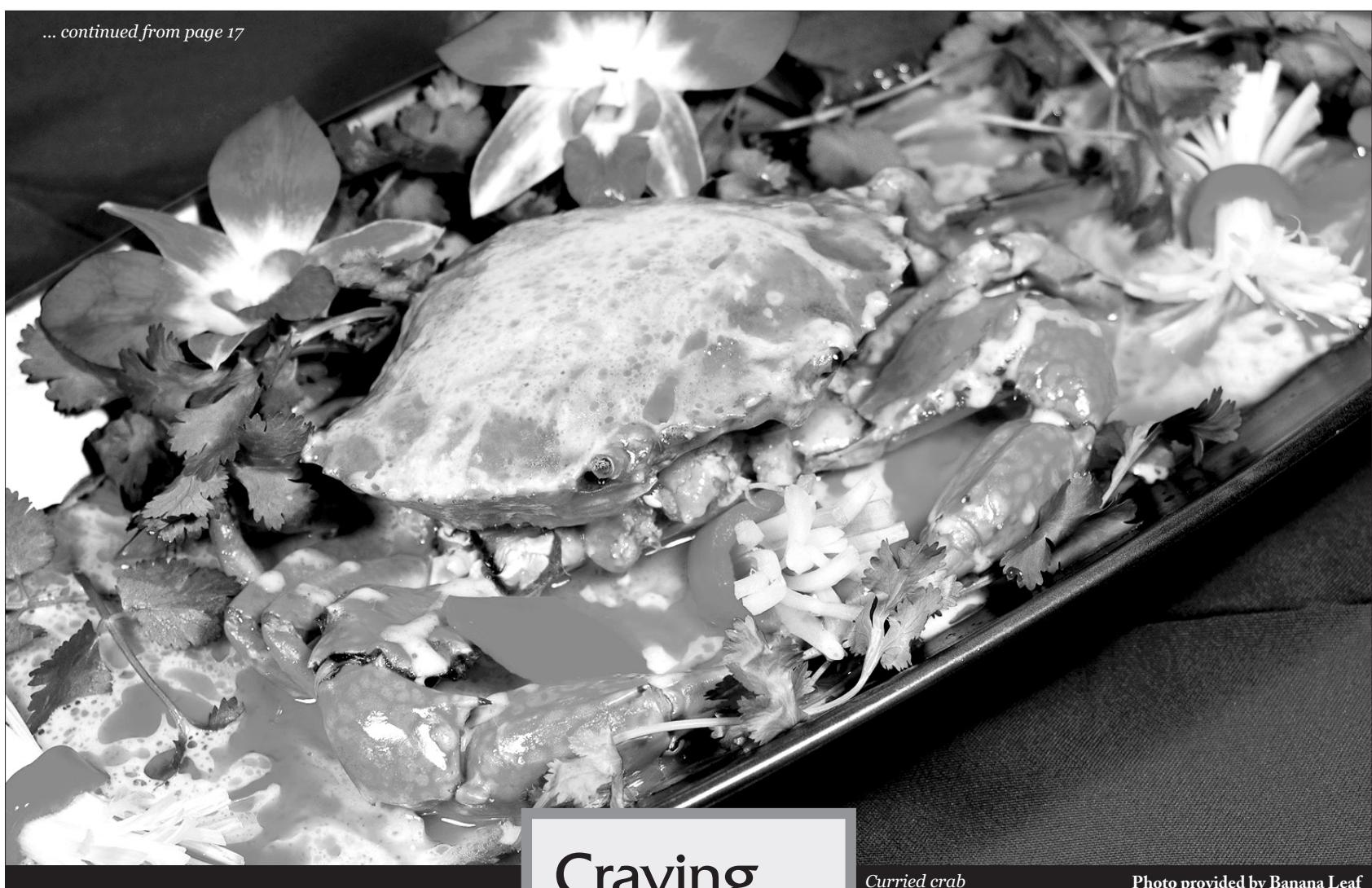
Besides the delicious food here, Awana offers a fine selection of cocktails and an open kitchen where one can see how Roti Prata and Satay are made.

"Awana" means "top of the cloud" in Malay. The interior decor is inspired by the traditional wooden houses in Malaysia, and the red tones give the interior a warm, comfortable feeling.

Awana Restaurant

Where: 32 Tianze Lu, Chaoyang
Open: 11 am - 11 pm
Tel: 6462 0004

Continued on page 18 ...

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Tandoor's pungent Punjab dish

By Han Manman

Tandoori chicken is a perennial favorite in Indian cuisine. To settle the cravings here in Beijing, there is no better stop than Tandoor Indian Restaurant, one of the most popular restaurants in the city's Indian community.

The chicken is a semi-fried delicacy that originated in the Punjab region of India.

It is marinated in yogurt and seasoned with tandoori masala. The dish is moderately hot, but the heat is toned down to a mild numbness as it is in most Western nations. Cayenne pepper, red chili powder and other spices give it a red hue. A higher amount of turmeric produces an orange color. In some modern versions, both red and yellow food colorings are used. It is traditionally cooked at high temperatures in a clay oven, a tandoor, but it can also be prepared on a traditional grill.

This dish is popular in most of northern India and western Bengal. In Pakistan and India, it is eaten with Naan, an Indian bread baked in a clay oven, and with curries

of varying spices, kebabs and lentil or vegetable dishes.

In Tandoor Indian Restaurant, the largely barbecued and curry-based dishes are prepared by Indian chefs who are adept at tailoring the spices to suit individual guests' tastes. As the cooks are from India, so too is the service team and everything in the kitchen.

Other famous Indian dishes include Chilli Pakoda, Mirch Musallam, stuffed peppers in a rich, spicy sauce, Chicken Vindaloo, a widely popular, highly spiced chicken in a sharp, tangy sauce, Lamb Achari, lamb curry spiced with Indian pickles, and Chilli Biryani.

The restaurant is decorated with dense Indian features. Diners can enjoy traditional Indian dance performances while eating, but be prepared for a big bill. The average cost is 150 yuan per person.

Tandoor Indian Restaurant

Where: Great Dragon Hotel, 2 Gongti Bei Lu
Open: 11:30 am - 2 pm, 5:30-10:30 pm
Tel: 6597 2211



Indian semi-fried chicken

Photo provided by Tandoor Indian Restaurant

Craving for curried crab

By Venus Lee

Each month, there are several solo concerts held by top stars at Worker's Stadium. To feed the fans, a fine collection of snack shops and restaurants have shot up around its exterior. Faced with so many fashionable venues, picking where to eat can be a battle. But for a delicious and exotic pre-concert feast, consider Banana Leaf Curry House.

Banana Leaf is the biggest Thai restaurant in the city, and the curry crab is its most famous dish. One can order the whole menu, but everything is nothing without a plate of curry crab. The carefully-selected crabs are stewed with a dozen fresh spices, coconut milk and curry made from 20 precious herbs. The crab is incredibly smooth, with a strong, fragrant smell and pleasant aftertaste. Diners said the key to the crab experience is its sauce.

The restaurant is always active. It offers customers a way to fill up on authentic fare while enjoying the feeling of Thai festivals. Celebrity actors and athletes are frequent customers.

The design of the restaurant captures the natural and rustic Thai countryside. You could enjoy the tropics Thailand captured in its small bridge, flowing water, intertwining vines and carved banisters.

Banana Leaf Curry House (Jiaoye restaurant)

Where: 4 Gongti Bei Lu, behind the Comfort Inn in Sanlitun
Open: 10 am - 10 pm
Tel: 6506 8855, 6506 3399

Curried crab

Photo provided by Banana Leaf

Mushrooms meet Japanese cuisine

By Zhang Dongya

Mushrooms are new favorites in Japanese cuisine. If you have tired of Sushi and Sashimi, then some dishes made of mushrooms may tickle your taste buds with their thick flavor.

The Grilled Beef and Mushroom Roll is one example, and it comes highly recommended at Matsuko. Its main ingredients are sliced beef and enoki mushrooms. The mushrooms are covered with the sliced beef in rolls, and the rolls are fried until the color matures, then coated with sauce. The secret of the dish lies in its sauce, which Matsuko makes on its own. It is slightly sweet and sticky.

The dish is served with a salad of cabbage, purple cabbage, cucumber, tomato and corn.

The cook Yao Xiaoguo said the beef used comes from the cow's belly, which is rich in fat and easy to fry. For those who want to try to make the dish at home, Yao suggested using beef that has

both fat and lean areas.

The plate usually arrives with nine rolls for 38 yuan.

Another dish with the above ingredients but a different cooking method is also available. Sliced Beef Teppanyaki, 60 yuan, is also made of beef and enoki mushrooms, but the ingredients are stir-fried before forming rolls.

Matsuko Japanese Restaurant Chaoyang Bei Lu Branch

Where: 2F, Jinglong Building, 225 Chaoyang Bei Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 11:30 am - 2 pm, 5 pm - 10:30 pm

11 am - 2:30 pm (in weekends and holidays)

Tel: 6509 8998

Other branches:

Liangmaqiao Branch

Where: 1F, First Shanghai Center, 39 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

Tel: 8453 4062

Baijiazhuang Branch

Where: 22 Baijiazhuang, North Second Ring Road, Chaoyang

Tel: 6582 5208



Japanese shrimps with salads

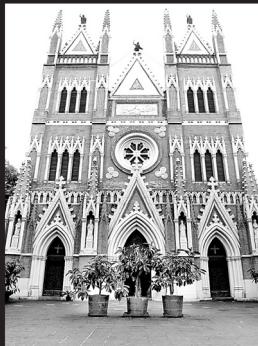
Photo provided by Matsuko

Ruins beneath the city's surface

Urban exploration in four Olympic cities

Beijing Capital of urban exploration

As an ancient city, Beijing has abundant resources for urban explorers, including ruined buildings, catacombs and abandoned factories.



CFP Photo

'Xishiku Church, Beijing's largest Catholic church

By Jiang Xubo

Xishiku Church, or Salvador Church, was located on Xishiku Street in Xicheng District and was better known as "Northern Church."

The three-storied church was the largest Catholic Church in the capital. It had an elaborate gray marble facade, a tall and wide nave with side aisles, octagonal transepts and a huge sanctuary. There were many chandeliers, plus large, painted stations of the cross, old stained glass and the remains of old wall decorations.

The building owed part of its grandness to Chinese architectural paradigms. The base, rails and two pavilions, which housed two steles bestowed by Emperor Qianlong (1736-1796), added traditional flavor to the building.

It was famous for being one of the most beautiful churches in the capital with its grand, Gothic style. It is perplexing that it also made the list of the capital's hottest spots for urban exploration.

The church, formerly the center of a great complex of schools, orphanages, hospitals and libraries, stands at the center of a building labyrinth.

The church witnessed fighting and bloodbaths when the Boxer Rebellion began in 1900.

Chinese fighters besieged the church in June 1900, and fought the French and Italian garrison of the compound for two months before the Allied troops came to their rescue.

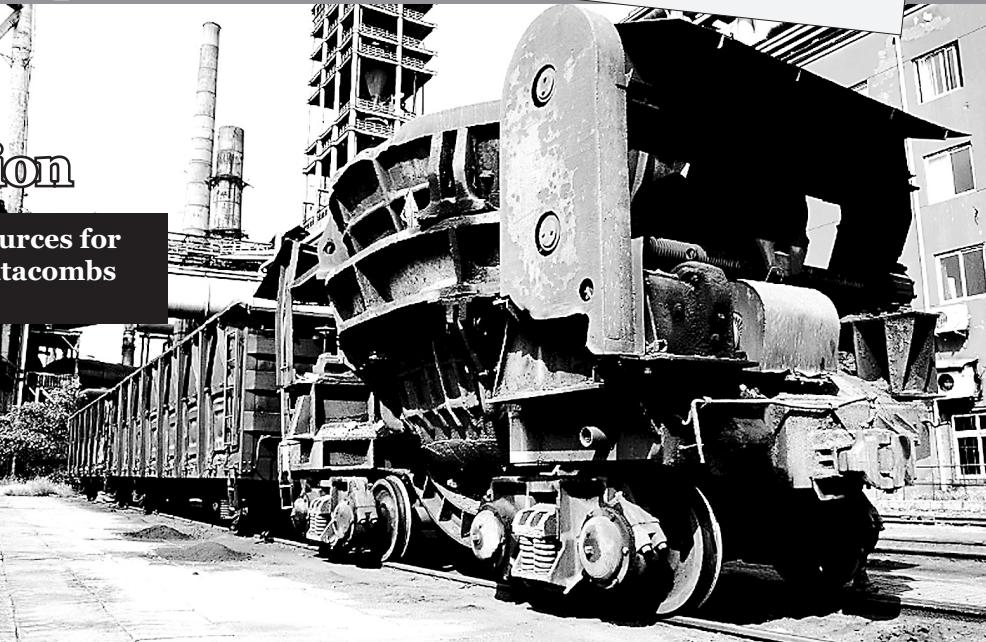
The blood and iron of the past may be a definite reason why this church has become a magnet for urban explorers.

By He Jianwei

"Rather than your face as a young woman, I prefer your face as it is now."

Those words opened Marguerite Duras's *The Lover*, published at age 70. Qingdao's urban explorers have adopted the line as their slogan and rewritten it to read, "Rather than your prosperous look, we prefer your ruined appearance as it is now."

In China, most urban explorers (UEs) are based in cities which have a long history of architecture. "Every city has places which have been forgotten," Sammi Xing, a veteran UE and founder of China's largest exploration Web site, chinauer.com, said. "Some abandoned houses that are mentioned on the Web site today may be demolished tomorrow."



Shougang a future heritage park

By Huang Daohen

The workers left. Their machines were auctioned. Their workplace, however, could not be so easily sent away.

Take a ride to Huagong Bridge at Beijing's Fifth Ring Road to find six big chimneys on the horizon: relics of the famous Fatou Industrial Zone, once home to a number of factories.

Most of the factories have been relocated or demolished, and the only legacy is the chimneys on the former site of the Shougang, a major Chinese steel producer.

The last furnace was fired July 15 last year, and production at the 47-year-old plant came to an end. Only the remnants of the buildings and equipment throughout the site serve as evidence of its bygone days as a steel producer.

The plant once formed a self-sustained miniature society, complete with a school, hospital and residential zone, Li Guishu, 66, a retiree, said. For decades, workers clung to it as the heart of their activity.

Furnaces, for their historic significance, are still the signature facilities of the plant. The black mammoth is over 4 meters high and 14 meters long, and contains 65 charring cham-

bers arranged in a row.

Up the clamped stairs within the furnace is the "inferno." It was once a poorly-conditioned workplace, hot and dirty. The workers were required to wear thick protective outfits in exchange for higher allowances and better food, Li said.

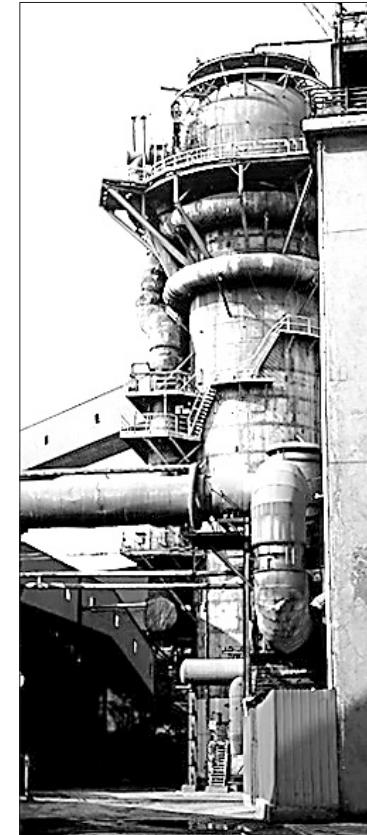
Li said that a terrace at the top of the furnace may be rebuilt into a cafe and bar.

A railway far into the distance by the end of the plant was used to haul coal in and ship coke out, but rampant weeds have conquered the derelict rail bed. The railway line may one day be used to transport visitors.

Next to the furnaces is the chemical zone, the other major part of the site. The air still carries irritating fumes due to the remaining scent of sulfur and benzene. Explorers should pass through the area as quickly as possible.

Various gas generators, recovery equipment and cooling towers are scattered throughout the area.

Officials from the Shougang Group reportedly have invited experts to do research on the preservation of the site. One suggestion was that it be converted into an industrial heritage park.



Other targets

- The west No 6 palace of the Palace Museum
- The western building at No 81 on Chaoyangmen Nei Dajie in Dongcheng District
- The office building at No 130 on Chaoyangmen Nei Dajie in Dongcheng District
- The Fulong Temple at the Fulong Jie in Dongcheng District
- The Gui Jie at Dongzhimen in Dongcheng District
- The Wanning Bridge in Di'anmen in Xicheng District
- The Prince Li's Palace at Xi'anmen in Xicheng District
- The 798 Art District in Chaoyang District
- The Huguang Gild Hall in Xuanwu District
- The Zhao Temple on the Fragrance Hill in Haidian District
- The No 52 and 53 subway stations in Shijingshan District

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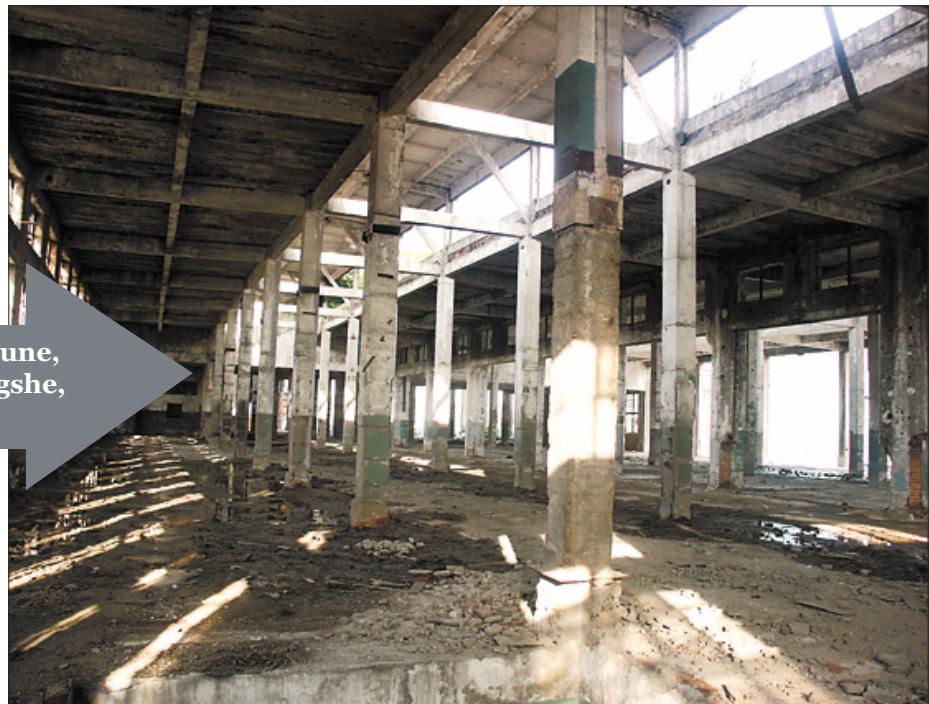
Qingdao

Beginning for urban exploration

Urban exploration (UE) came to Qingdao last June, with the biggest local organization of Xingfu Gongshe, the Happy Club.



No 2 Qingdao Bicycle Factory
Photos provided by Happy Club

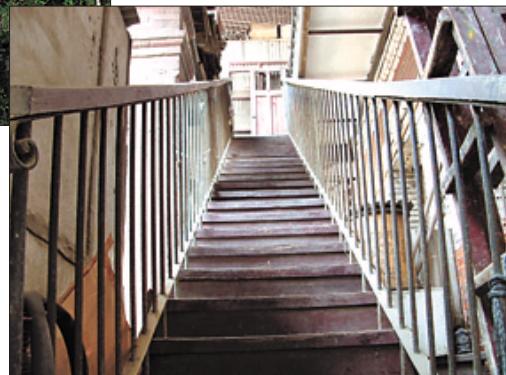


By Zhang Dongya

"Every city has some old faces that have been forgotten, even Qingdao. Thousands of people may have worked in the big factories beside roaring machines, but now only broken walls and steeled pillars remain. The ruins are only a short distance from the flourishing downtown, but people seldom see them. Just like the two sides of one coin, they are beside each other, but never meet," Damai, the founder of the Happy Club, said. He and others have a love affair with the city's "B-side."

Unlike other UE teams visiting places in secret, the Happy Club chooses to inform all gatekeepers in advance. If rejected, they offer written materials like a letter of introduction to get permission.

The abandoned Qingdao Tongtai Rubber Factor is a good start for explorers. It was one of the biggest rubber factories in the



country in the 1990s. However, the state-run factory began to crumble after reforms chipped away at its government support.

The abandoned factory is full of industrial waste and spider webs. Although located on a crowded street, nobody sees it since a tarp blocks it from public view. Stairs at the back of the building lead to its three floors, but many steps are broken and the climb is dangerous. The first floor was a big workshop with an open area. Rooms on the top floor were offices, since you can still see old telephone numbers that were only five to six digits.

The No 2 Qingdao Bicycle Factory and the abandoned villa area on Donghai Road are also good exploration sites. Since urban exploration is relatively new to Qingdao, there are still more discoveries awaiting the adventurous.

Tianjin

A troop began strong

Air-raid shelters at Liulin Park

Liulin Park is a good site newly discovered by Tianjin urban explorers. Located on the bank of Haihe River, Hexi District, Liulin Park is hidden from the city bustle.

Around the park, there are many universities like Tianjin University of Finance and Economics and Tianjin University of Science and Technology. It is small and old, but full of wild flavor. College students consider it a good place for a picnic.

The park's name was written by famed painter Fu Zuo, and once upon a time it was prosperous. Today, the park is desolate and in a serious state of disrepair.

The path to the park is a service road lined with waste and refuse. A signboard beside the old gate reads "Open from 6 - 8." Trees are dense and the park is full of weeds. Pavilions and porches are still there,

with the pillars peeling and stained.

The park was once used by the military, and contains air raid shelters, a mark of Tianjin's old position as the front line of China's defense. The entrances are buried in weeds and hard to find.

One of the entrances to the shelters is in a rockery, with a stone tiger looking ferociously at the hole. Through the small entrance are two concrete doors with rusted-iron doorknobs. The shelter is big and tall. The inside is humid, dark and home to swarms of mosquitoes. Explorers said the interior was so dark that they could not see anything until they developed their photos.

Some pillboxes located near the banks of Haihe River have also been explored. Some buildings in the park have been marked with the character "chai," meaning they are scheduled for demolition.

Urban exploration became popular in Tianjin around 2000. During the past few years, more new faces have joined the exploration scene. They have continued to explore new sites and have struck off the ones which have been removed or rebuilt.

Abandoned Tianjin Hospital for Nationalities

Abandoned hospitals are good destinations for urban explorers, and Tianjin Hospital for Nationalities is one such example.

The hospital was built on the Shaogongzhuang Backstreet in Hengqiao District in 1958. Since lots of people around were part of the Hui ethnic group, it was named "Minzu Hospital," which means Hospital for Ethnic Groups. It had many departments, including a medical sur-

gical and children's department. However, it ran under deficit for too long, and the government was forced to use its own money to pay hospital employees.

Years ago, the hospital started construction on a booth for outpatients and admissions. Lack of capital forced construction to a halt for at least a decade. Rumors say the building is already sold, but no further information is available.

A signpost reading "Hui Nationality Canteen" hangs on a ruined wall in the abandoned yard, but through the door

is nothing but a wide field of fallen leaves. A board reading "mortuary" leans outside a bungalow. A building not far away looks like an administrative office, but is actually the rehabilitation center.

The unfinished building extends deep into the yard. With more than ten floors, it looks so grand, but all the windows are black holes. On every floor, there are rooms one after another, with brick and concrete outside. The basement is flooded, which has prevented explorers from getting in.

Other targets

- Cao Kun's Garden in Xiqing District
- Unfinished Steel Building in Heping District
- Chyun Building at No 16 on Shierjinglu in Hedong District
- Tumulus in Museum of History in Hedong District
- Abandoned western buildings on Jiefangbeilu in Heping District



Photo provided by chinauer.com

Continued on page 21 ...

... continued from page 20

Shanghai Behind the development

Shanghai is one of the prosperous cities in China and a frequent destination for urban explorers. But beneath its shiny surface, corporate bankruptcy and death have left behind many abandoned work sites and desolate private residences.



Abandoned park in Nanxiang Town

By He Jianwei

About 23 kilometers from the downtown, an abandoned park called Shanghai Huanqiu Leyuan is in the north of Nanxiang Town. The park contains miniatures of 36 world-famous scenic spots.

It opened in September 1996. It closed and reopened several times from 1997 to 1998. In 2000, it closed its doors a final time after its company went bankrupt.

The abandoned park is a popular target for Shanghai's urban explorers. In May, a group of urban explorers visited the park.

"When we drove along the Hujia expressway, we saw two pyramids towering above the skyline. It was Huajiu Leyuan, which was abandoned eight years ago," happy wader, a netizen on chengshitaxian.cn, said.

An inch of land is worth more than an inch of gold in Shanghai. How does a 1,000-square-meter park remain unused for eight years?

"When the park opened 12 years ago, I read something about it in the newspaper. I thought it was a park of man-made sights and planned to visit it some time, but it ended up closing before I could," he said.

The park is not open to the public. Four security teams patrol the gate. Bus 822 stops in front of its gate.

They could not get into through the front, but explorers quickly found a short wall to the west of the gate. They climbed over the wall and into the park.

Inside were Roman statues, sculptures of Buddha and European-style cabins. Some were broken and some were scattered on the ground. In some parts of the park, grass grew as tall as a man.

"Fortunately, most of buildings have been left behind and it does not appear any real estate company is interested in the land," he said



Other targets

- Qixi Water World in Hannui, Hangtou
- Shajing Lu No 10, once the largest slaughterhouse in the Far East
- Dream Fairyland in Jiading District
- A secret building in Guangfu Xi Lu
- Bazi Mountain in Songjiang



Five tips for urban exploration

Required equipment

Sammi Xing, a veteran UE and founder of China's largest UE Web site recommends a flashlight, mobile phone, compass, radio, rope, harness, binoculars, cane and a digital video recorder or camera. "Most of the places we explore are dark, so a flashlight is necessary. Some places have no signals for mobile phones, so radios are used to communicate with fellow explorers," she said.

Suitable clothing

"Outdoor clothing is fine for explorers," she said, "Long pants and long sleeves are a good choice."

Hiking boots are necessary for people who intend to climb or jump. Clothing choices should keep you warm in winter and cool in summer.

Groups better than solo

Though some veteran explorers like going it alone, it is dangerous for rookies. "The maximum number of people for an urban exploration group is 11. In more dangerous places, that number should be cut to six to ensure better control," she said.

Sound body

Unlike other X-games, urban exploration does not require top notch physical fitness and is a suitable activity for all ages. "People who are 18 to 50 and are responsible for their actions and can participate in urban exploration," she said.

"Of course, people with heart problems or other chronic diseases are not so suitable," she said.

Safety first

"Before every exploration, I repeat, 'be safe' three times," Xing said.

Urban exploration is a sport and recreational activity. "If a place could be life-threatening, I never go. If someone wants to go into an underground sewer, don't." she said.

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Management Techniques

Part 1: Making Peace

By Mike Grigg

China currently suffers from a chronic shortage of talented, qualified managers. With such talent becoming increasingly difficult to recruit, it is vital that you do everything you can to develop the talented individuals you already have, so that they can fill managerial roles in the future. Here are some techniques to develop your existing staff, and yourself, so you can manage your organization more effectively.

For this article, I have drawn inspiration from Michael Carroll, author of *Awake at Work*. He identifies four techniques for managing clients: making peace, inspiring, attracting and destroying. In this article, I will deal with the first factor, making peace.

This is the most important of the four techniques. This is the ability to deal with conflict smoothly and confidently. An all too common approach is to view business difficulties as obstacles. For many, a very natural reaction to this is to become nervous and to develop a strong urge to remove such conflict – and the negative

emotions that accompany it – as soon as possible. In this situation, inexperienced managers often feel uncomfortable and choose to make excuses, defend their actions, or blame others.

In such tricky situations, making peace is the ability to take a deep breath and understand others, to explore what the other people involved are thinking and feeling. This ability involves changing your perspective on the situation. You are no longer a soldier looking to fight a battle; instead you must become a mediator approaching the situation not as a conflict, but as a negotiation. This means that your goal changes from seeking a victory for yourself to forging a winning agreement for both sides. This is done by asking questions to understand the situation and appreciating other points of view. By creating peace from the seeds of conflict, we quickly realise that the discomfort we were suffering was unnecessary and caused undue stress.

Let me give you an example where the above tech-



Mike Grigg is the Suzhou Corporate Training Manager

nique worked like a dream. It centred on the typical situation of an employee not getting along with the boss – a situation I am sure you will have dealt with at some point in your career. I recently gave a seminar during which one of the trainees asked me whether making peace with her new line manager was the right course of action. Before we spoke, she was considering the option of leaving her company and finding another job. She felt that her manager was not recognizing her hard work and was failing to guide her on a strong career path. Furthermore, the manager frequently criticised her in front of her colleagues, while behind closed doors, he begged her to help him with tasks that were outside of her job description. She had worked for her company for four years prior to the arrival of her new line manager, but after just a few short weeks with him, she was exhausted.

I asked her to imagine what the new line manager

might be afraid of. She thought for a few moments and answered that he might fear his boss and be under too much pressure from his own manager. My advice was to try to make peace with her line manager by asking him questions to understand his fear. She then went back to her company, asked him these questions and tried to understand his situation. She discovered that he felt threatened by her. However, he appreciated that she had taken the initiative to talk with him and understand his situation. From that point on, he spoke to her first about decisions he was thinking about making for the team, used her suggestions and recognized her contributions during team meetings.

The above outcome would not have been possible had she approached the situation armed with weapons for conflict rather than with the olive branch of peace and a mind focused on conciliation. By demonstrating this technique as a manager you will help your team to achieve more.

To be continued ...

Hotel



Jianguo Garden

With National Day approaching, Jianguo Garden Hotel will offer a series of holiday promotions.

From September 28 to October 6, two options are tailor-made for family vacationers. The deluxe room is only 898 yuan per night including three breakfasts and the business room is 660 yuan without the breakfast.

Before October 6, the deluxe room is subject to a three-night charge; get one free at a net price 990 yuan per night. The business room is priced at only 2008 yuan for two nights and more free offerings await you.

Where: Jianguo Garden, 17 Jianguomen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng
Tel: 6528 6666
(By Sun Feng)

Sunworld Dynasty Hotel re-opens

Sunworld Dynasty, in downtown Beijing in the Wangfujing area, re-opened after renovations in July.

Reputed to be the largest atrium plaza in the Asia-Pacific area, the hotel offers a delightful setting for both business and leisure activities. The hotel provides exquisite

cuisine and various recreational facilities, including a fully-equipped gym, a heated indoor swimming pool, outdoor badminton and tennis courts, as well as a spa and beauty salon.

Where: Sunworld Dynasty Hotel, 50 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng
Tel: 5816 8888
(By Sun Feng)

SriLankan Airlines offers greater customer experiences to China

SriLankan Airlines has recruited four Chinese Customer Liaison Agents to provide greater customer service to the Chinese market as part of its China growth strategy.

The four Chinese Customer Liaison Agents will be based out of Colombo and will work on the direct flight between Beijing and Colombo. The flights to Beijing operate on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday on modern Airbus A330/A340 aircraft.

The airline hopes to position Sri Lanka as a destination of choice for China's travelers and further enhance its customer service experience.

For more information on the airline, please visit srilankan.aero.

(By Li Jing)

Aviation



Dining

Authentic Cantonese Delicacies

A feast of authentic Cantonese delicacies has arrived at St. Regis Hotel where you can enjoy more than 50 different Cantonese delights.

Not to be missed are the scallops dumplings in superior soup, rice congee with sliced duck and dried scallop, chilled mango pudding and other taste treats created by St. Regis' Executive Chinese Chef and his experienced team.

It is all priced at 138 yuan with an all-you-can-eat brunch menu and for an extra 50 yuan, you can savor signature soup, braised buddha jumped over the wall and a fruit platter. All prices are subject to a 15 percent surcharge.

Where: Celestial Court, the St. Regis Beijing, 21 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

Open: 11:30 am – 2:30 pm

Tel: 6460 6688 ext. 2460

(By Sun Feng)

Beat of the northern streets

By Jackie Zhang

While today it is called Zhonggulou, the stretch refers to two ancient buildings: Zhonglou (Bell Tower) and Gulou (Drum Tower). The towers are located on the northern stretch across the city. The buildings are thick with history and culture and are a main attraction for foreign tourists.

The Zhonglou is behind Gulou. From Yuan (1271-1368) to Qing (1644-1912) Dynasty, Zhonggulou was where the city kept time. Bells and drums were used to signal times throughout the day. The first zhonggulou was used in Han Dynasty (202-220 AD). "People rose with the beat of the drum and slept with the chime of the bell" is a Chinese saying that captures the lives of people when the drums still beat.

The Gulou in Beijing was built on a high brick platform in Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). The platform was 4 meters high with a large tower on it.

At present, the Zhonggulou has been permanently retired. But during festival times, especially Spring Festival, Beijingers can still hear the sounds of drums and bells when its time to ring in the new lunar year.

Around Zhonggulou, at Jiu Gulou Dajie and Gulou Dong Dajie and around the square between the two towers, there are many stores that sell traditional handicrafts, modern cafes and restaurants. Some are inside local hutongs and take special effort to track down, but the adventure is worth the effort.

Guozijian, the Imperial College, is another point near the Zhonggulou area. It was renovated and reopened this June, and now attracts more tourists than ever. The Confucius Temple beside it is now joined as the Confucius Temple and the Imperial College Museum.

Cafes and restaurants are common in the area. With the best preserved collection of pailou archways in the city, the quiet street is a great sight for amateur photos.



A glance at the Zhonglou (Bell Tower) seen through the iron gate.



The archway of Guozijian on Guozijian Dajie. CFP Photo

Wrapped up in a Paper bag

By Annie Wei

Beijing's development continues to attract concept restaurants like the Paper, a restaurant whose servings are a menu of modern simplicity.

Paper opened last March. It serves modern Chinese cuisine that some might call "fusion." It's still southern Chinese food, but with creativity, less oil and no MSG, but more seasonal organic vegetables to fill in the gaps in urban dwellers' diets," he said.

Dinners in Paper pay 150 yuan each, not including drinks, and are served whatever the chef is in the mood to make.

The interior is done in art deco-inspired paper white, with

white upholstery, white banquets, white walls, white table linens and framed speakers. The outside wall is black, with a narrow glass window that pedestrians can see through, but few would guess the interior is a restaurant.

For drinks, Paper has a list of imported wines and champagnes, and it has a reputation for the best Mojitos in town. The exquisite taste comes from the fresh lemon and peppermint, and they are always served in a big glass.

Paper

Where: 138 Gulou Dong Dajie

Open: 3 pm – midnight

Tel: 6405 6488

Cost: 150 yuan per person

Let's go to bed

By Annie Wei

"Let's go to bed" is the catch phrase on The Bed Bar's business card.

The restaurant's style is similar to that of the Cafe Sambal. Both were designed and decorated the same year. It is another traditional courtyard house with antique furniture and ambiguous ambience – with a little twist.

The gate has two wooden doors with a hanging red lantern overhead. For people visiting for the first time, the interior is difficult to imagine. There are many small sub-rooms and two yards. The sub-rooms reflect a 70s or 80s feeling with big wooden beds, old-style dressing tables, and a basin for the morning rinse. The combination of an old Beijing house with simplicity was obviously the designing theme.

Many people like hanging out there for drinks on quiet nights and chatting with friends. Still, most customers are expats. Some younger Chinese visitors said they liked it as a place for a quiet night, but complained about the



The Bed Bar looks cozy and romantic. Photo by Simon Lim

lack of parking.

The Bed Bar does not provide meals, but does serve tapas like spring or prawn rolls.

Bed Tapes Et Bar

Where: 17 Zhangwang Hutong, Jiu-gulou Dajie

Open: 2 pm – 3 am next day

Tel: 8400 1554

From hutong house to renovated restaurant

By Annie Wei

Cafe Sambal, best known for Malaysian cuisine, was the first hutong house-turned-restaurant on Jiugulou Dajie in 2002.

A good time in the restaurant will run 60-70 yuan, or 300 yuan per person for a more extravagant meal. For curry lovers, Sambal is the place to go. Chili or curry crab comes highly recommended and has to be ordered one day in advance at market price. The dish is made of fresh, seasonal materials and has a very rich taste.

The owner Cho Chonggee, who hails from Malaysia, agreed that his design style is a bigger hit with the city's internationally-minded diners, especially expats, though the bulk of restaurant-goers may find his interior "average."

A real visit is all one needs to do, a picture can hardly do the cafe justice, and it is anything but a decrepit hutong.



Cafe Sambal in its hutong. Photo by Simon Lim

If you do not plan to make it a Malaysian night, Sambal is still a good place for appetizers or an after-dinner drink. Some regulars spend their Sunday afternoons there for tea.

Cafe Sambal

Where: 43 Doufuchi Hutong, close to Jiu Gulou Dajie

Open: 11 am – midnight

Tel: 6400 4875

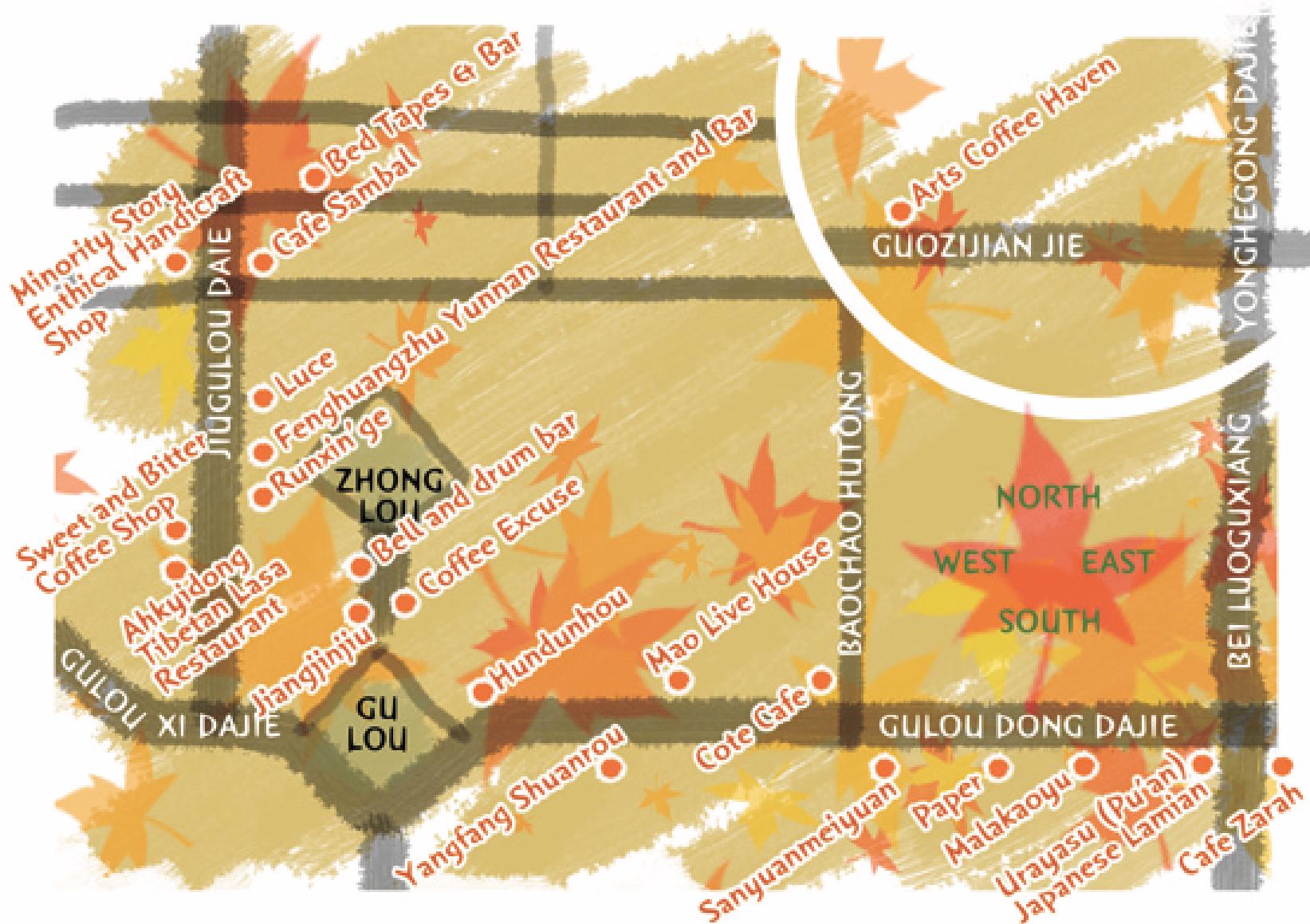
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Guilou & Guozijian area guide

Editor: Zhang Nan Designer: Yang Gen

BEIJING TODAY



Jiu Gulou Dajie

Minority Story Ethnic Handicraft Shop

Where: 5 Qianmacang Hutong, Jiu Gulou Dajie
Open: 11:30 am – 9:30 pm
Tel: 6403 3478

Bed Tapes Et Bar

Where: 17 Zhangwang Hutong, Jiugulou Dajie
Open: 2 pm – 3 am next day
Tel: 8400 1554

Cafe Sambal

Where: 43 Doufuchi Hutong, close to Jiu Gulou Dajie
Open: 11 am – midnight
Tel: 6400 4875

Luce

Where: 138, Jiu Gulou Dajie
Open: noon – 1 am next day
Tel: 8402 4417

Fenghuangzhu Yunan Restaurant

This restaurant offers tasty Yunnan fare. Its owners also run Jiangjinjiu bar. There are two Fenghuangzhu Yunan restaurants on Jiugulou Dajie. The first is smaller and the second has two floors.

Where: 128 Jiu Gulou Dajie
Open: 11 am – midnight
Tel: 6402 0227

Runxingge

Where: 152 Jiu Gulou Dajie
Open: 11 am – 1 am
Tel: 138 1099 4659

Sweet and Bitter Coffee Shop

A lovely coffee shop with reasonably-priced baked goods.

Where: 141, Jiu Gulou Dajie
Open: 8 am – midnight
Tel: 137 1898 1046

Ahkyidong Tibetan Lhasa Restaurant

(Tibet Fengqing Canba)
Where: 141, Jiu Gulou Dajie
Open: 11 am – midnight
Tel: 139 1187 9693

Between Gulou and Zhonglou

Jiangjinjiu

The upstairs lounge can seat a dozen people, whereas the downstairs easily accommodates 30 with music and dancing. It hosts concerts and impromptu jams with some brilliant musicians on weekends. Other days of the week, it offers a space for chatting and playing games.
Where: 2 Zhonggulou Hutong
Open: noon – midnight

Tel: 8405 0124

Bell and Drum bar

Where: 41 Zhonggulou Hutong
Open: noon – late
Tel: 8403 3600

Coffee Excuse

Where: 68 Zhonggulou Hutong
Open: noon – next day
Tel: 6401 9867

Gulou Dong Dajie

Cafe Zarah

Where: 42 Gulou Dong Dajie
Open: Monday to Thursday 9 am – 11 pm;
Friday and Saturday 10 am – midnight; Sunday
10 am – 11 pm; closed Tuesday
Tel: 8403 9807

Tel: 6402 5232

Paper

Where: 138 Gulou Dong Dajie
Open: 3 pm – midnight
Tel: 8401 5080

Pu'an Japanese Noodle Restaurant

A small but cozy Japanese noodle shop with tasty, fragrant noodles. Each dish costs about 20 yuan.
Where: 132 Gulou Dong Dajie
Open: 11:30 am – 11 pm
Tel: 6410 4598

Cafe Zarah

Where: 42, Gulou Dong Dajie
Open: Monday to Thursday, 9 am – 11 pm;
Friday and Saturday, 10 am – midnight;
Sunday, 10 am – 11 pm; closed on Tuesday
Tel: 8403 9807

Guozijian

Arts Coffee Haven

The decor is very Chinese and it has good coffee.

Where: 25 Guozijian Jie

Open: 10 am – midnight
Tel: 6405 2047



(By Jackie Zhang)